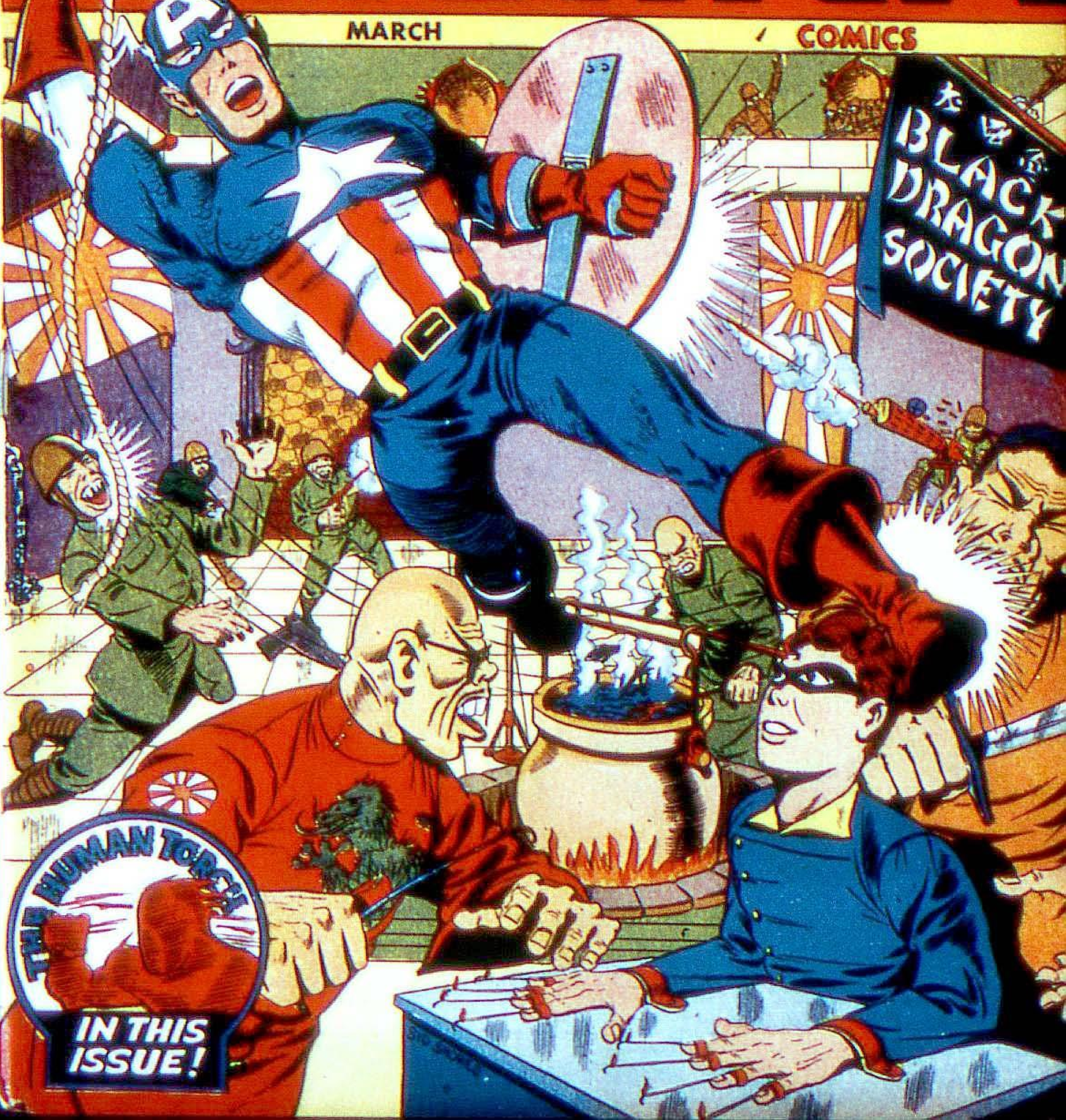
NO. 24

CAPTAIN AMERICA

10¢

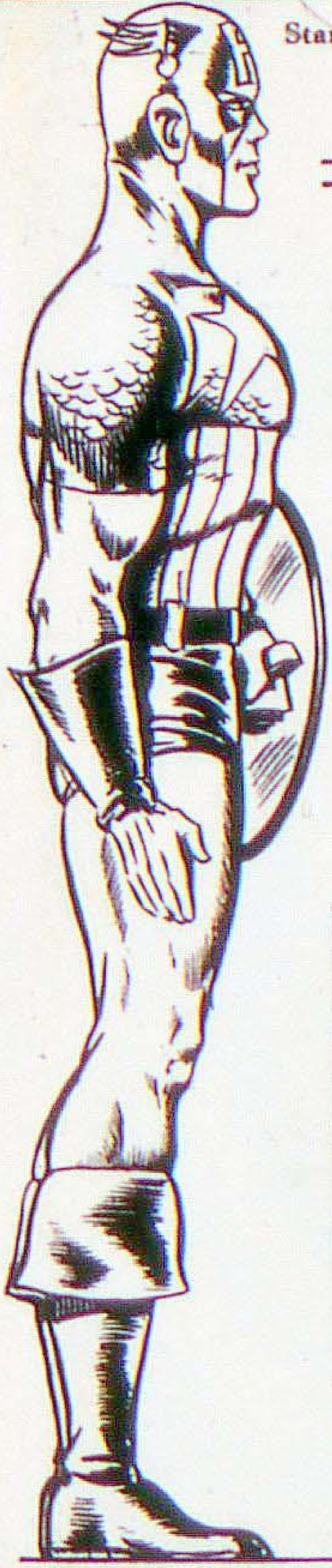
MARCH COMICS


BLACK DRAGON SOCIETY
THE HUMAN TORCH
IN THIS ISSUE!

CAPTAIN AMERICA

NEW! DIFFERENT! EXCITING!

CONTENTS



Stan Lee,
Editorial and
Art Director

Number 24

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Associate

FOR DEFENSE
BUY
UNITED
STATES
SAVINGS
BONDS
AND STAMPS

CAPTAIN AMERICA
The Vampire Strikes........Page 1

HUMAN TORCH
Mt. Rushmore Memorial.....Page 22

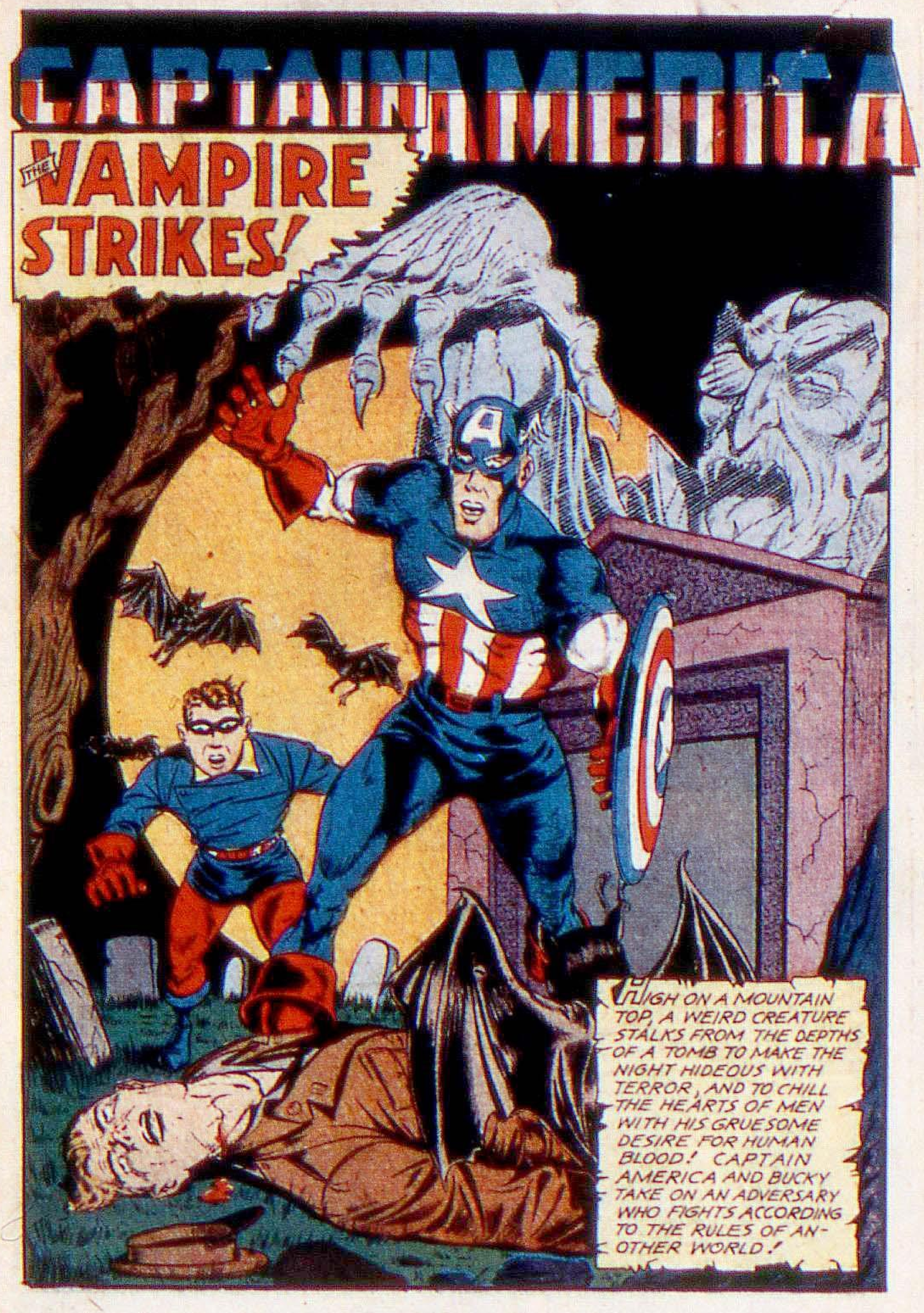
CAPTAIN AMERICA
The Eel of Horror Harbor.....Page 30

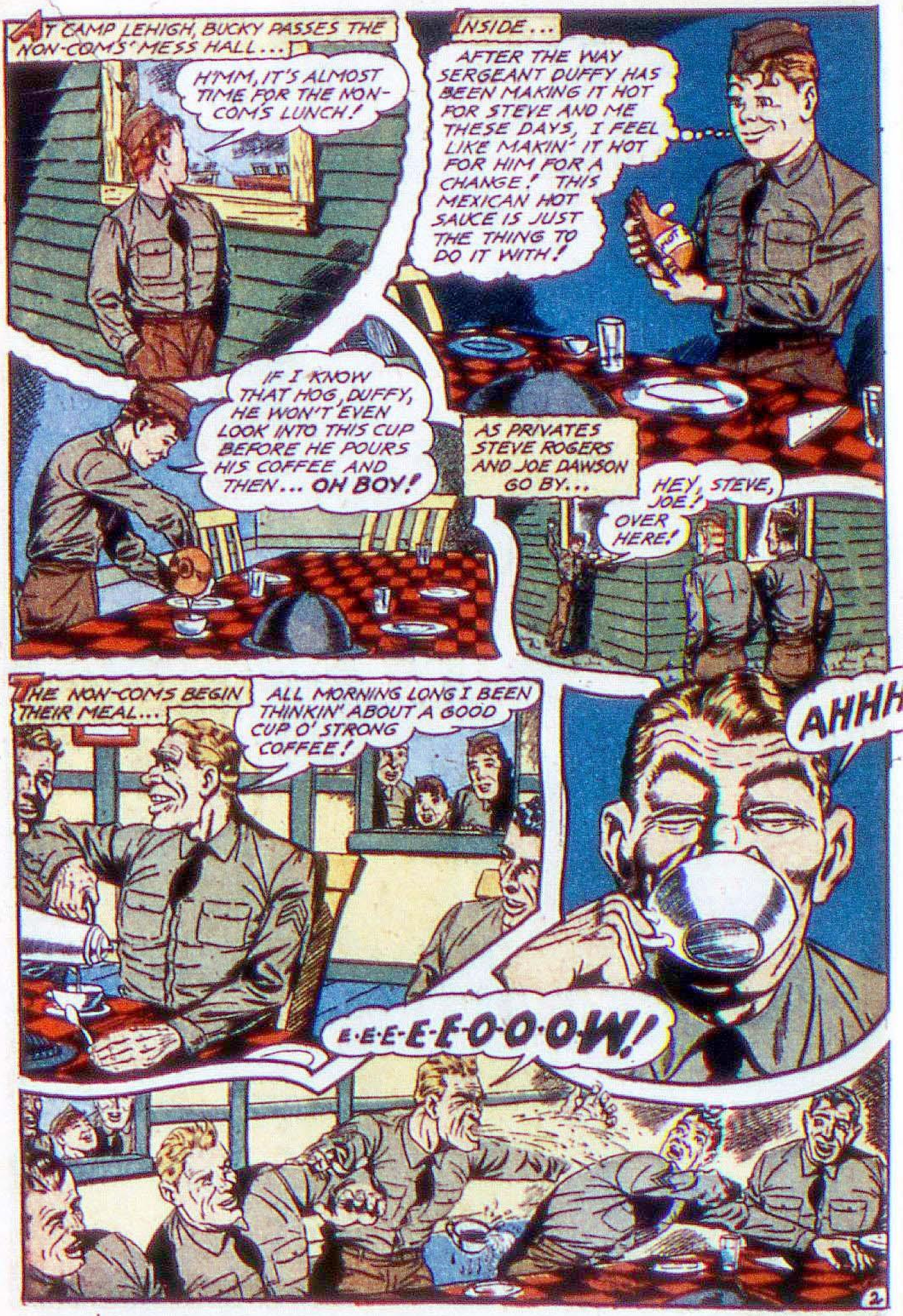
DIPPY DIPLOMAT
Blondes of a Different Color..Page 50

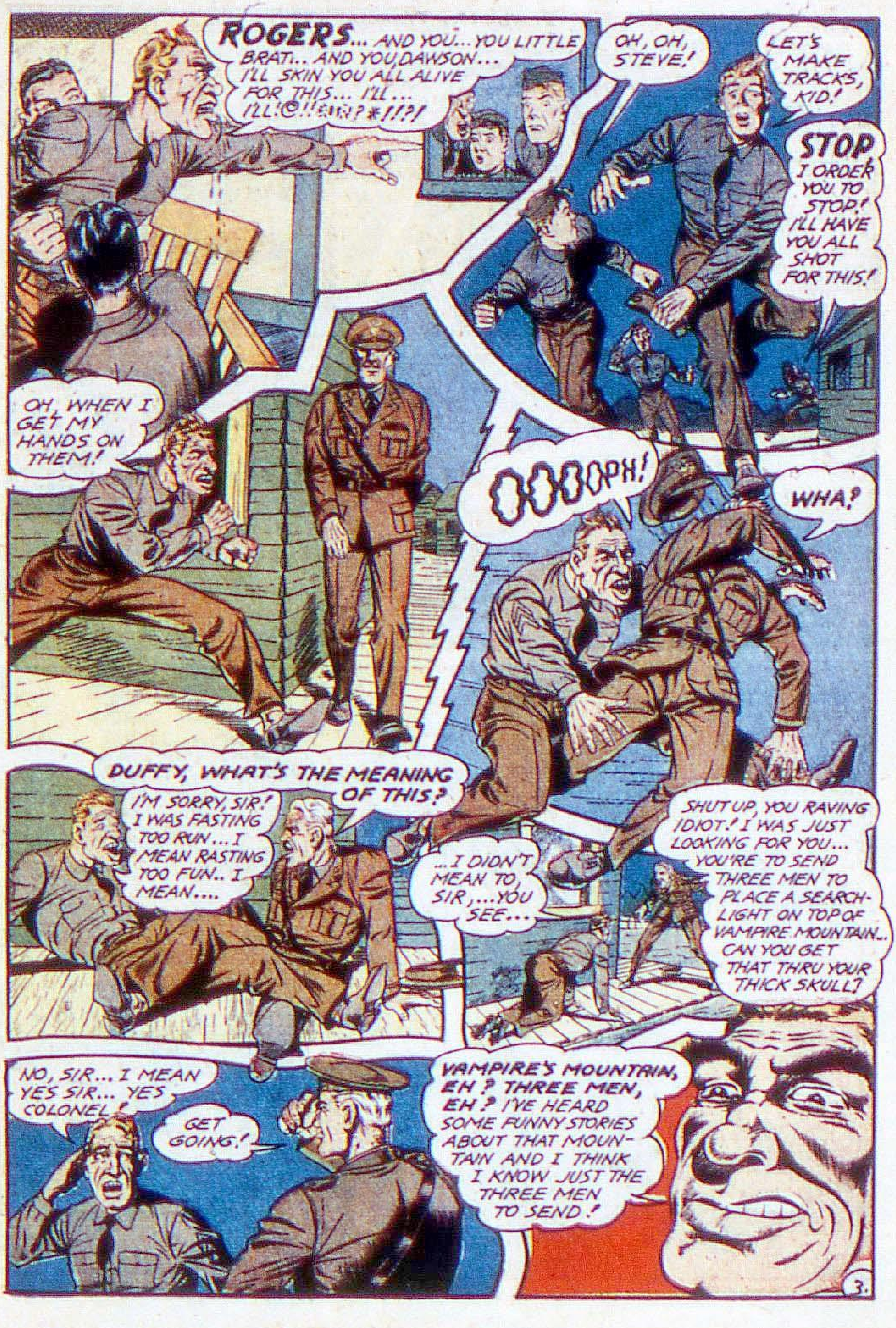
SECRET STAMP
The Mystery of the
Song of the Wind..........Page 58

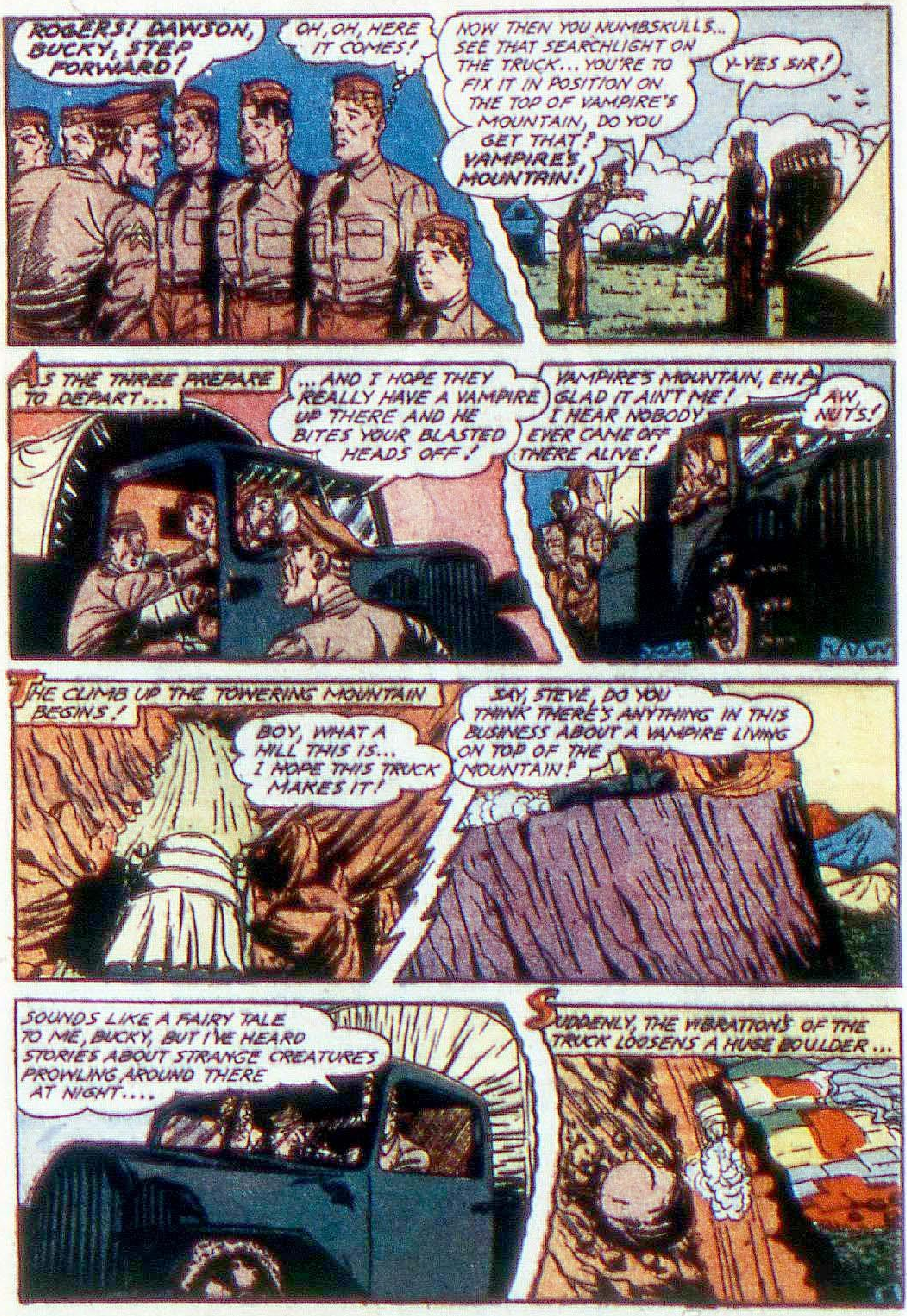
KRAZY Comics
TERRYTOONS Comics
COMEDY Comics
AMERICA's
FUNNIEST
THREE!

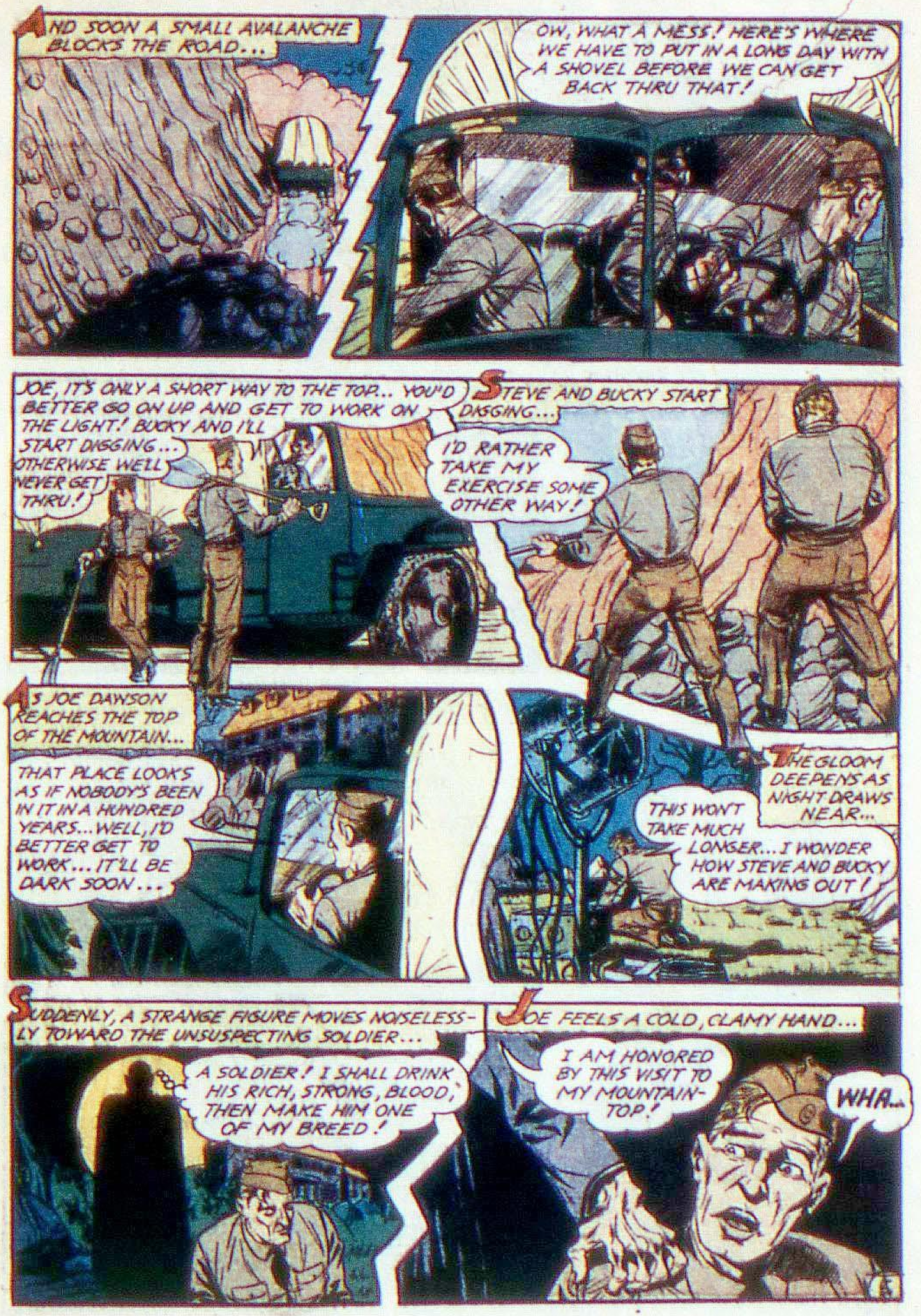
CAPTAIN AMERICA COMICS is published monthly at Meriden, Conn., by Complete Photo Story Corp. Entered as second class matter at the post office at Meriden, Conn., under Act of March 3, 1879. Contents copyright 1942 by Complete Photo Story Corp., 330 W. 42nd St., New York, N. Y., Martin Goodman, Pres. Vol. 2, No. 24, March, 1943 issue. Yearly subscription $1.00 in the U.S.A. No similarity between any of the names, characters, persons and/or institutions appearing in this magazine with those of any living or dead person or institution is intended, and that any such similarity which may exist is purely coincidental. Printed in the U.S.A.

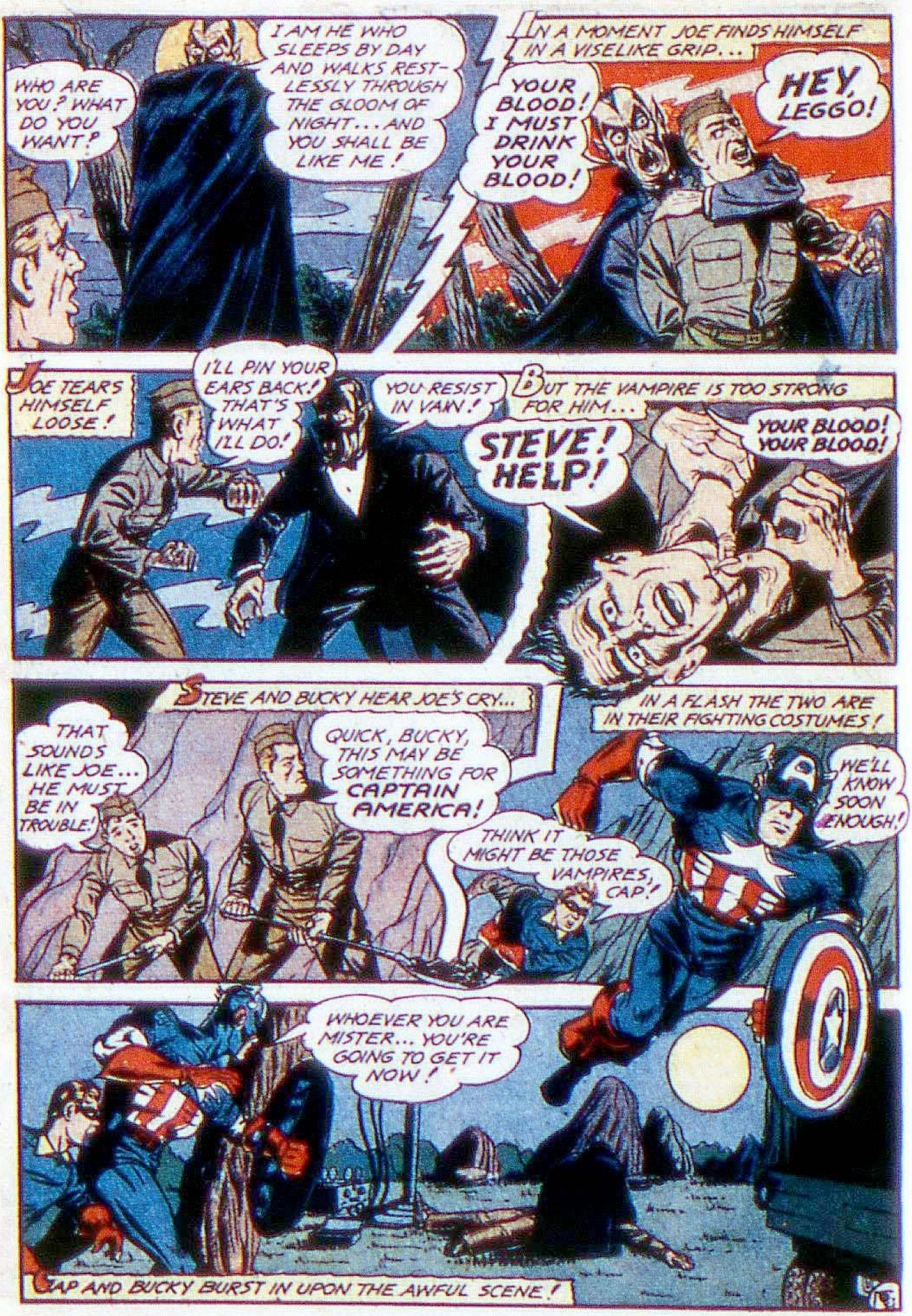

CAPTAIN AMERICA
THE VAMPIRE STRIKES!
HIGH ON A MOUNTAIN TOP, A WEIRD CREATURE STALKS FROM THE DEPTHS OF A TOMB TO MAKE THE NIGHT HIDEOUS WITH TERROR, AND TO CHILL THE HEARTS OF MEN WITH HIS GRUESOME DESIRE FOR HUMAN BLOOD! CAPTAIN AMERICA AND BUCKY TAKE ON AN ADVERSARY WHO FIGHTS ACCORDING TO THE RULES OF ANOTHER WORLD!

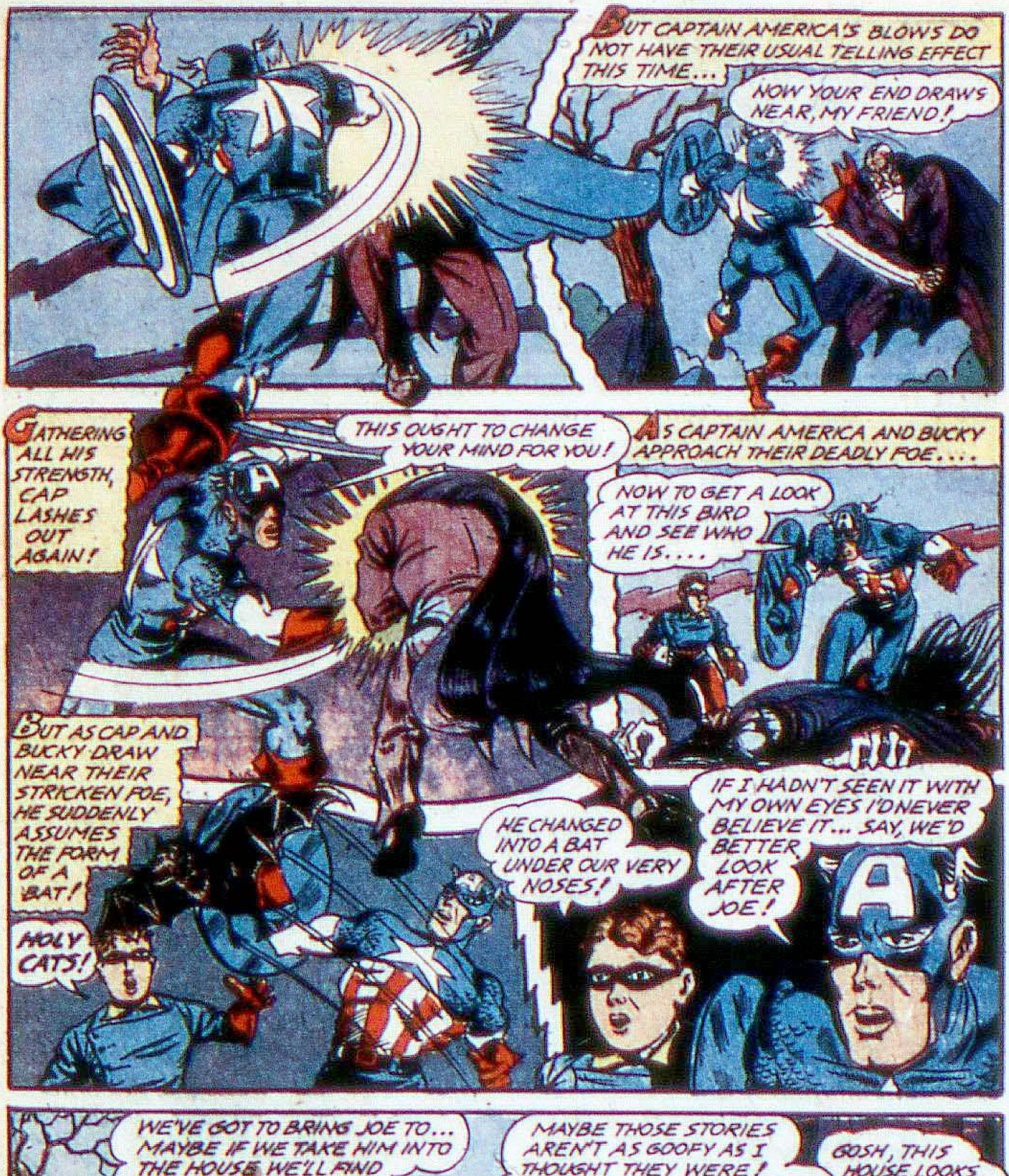

AT CAMP LEHIGH, BUCKY PASSES THE NON-COMS' MESS HALL...
H'MM, IT'S ALMOST TIME FOR THE NON-COMS LUNCH!
INSIDE...
AFTER THE WAY SERGEANT DUFFY HAS BEEN MAKING IT HOT FOR STEVE AND ME THESE DAYS, I FEEL LIKE MAKIN' IT HOT FOR HIM FOR A CHANGE! THIS MEXICAN HOT SAUCE IS JUST THE THING TO DO IT WITH!
HOT
IF I KNOW THAT HOG, DUFFY, HE WON'T EVEN LOOK INTO THIS CUP BEFORE HE POURS HIS COFFEE AND THEN... OH BOY!
AS PRIVATES STEVE ROGERS AND JOE DAWSON GO BY...
HEY, STEVE, JOE! OVER HERE!
THE NON-COMS BEGIN THEIR MEAL...
ALL MORNING LONG I BEEN THINKIN' ABOUT A GOOD CUP O' STRONG COFFEE!
AHHH
E-E-E-E-E-O-O-O-W!

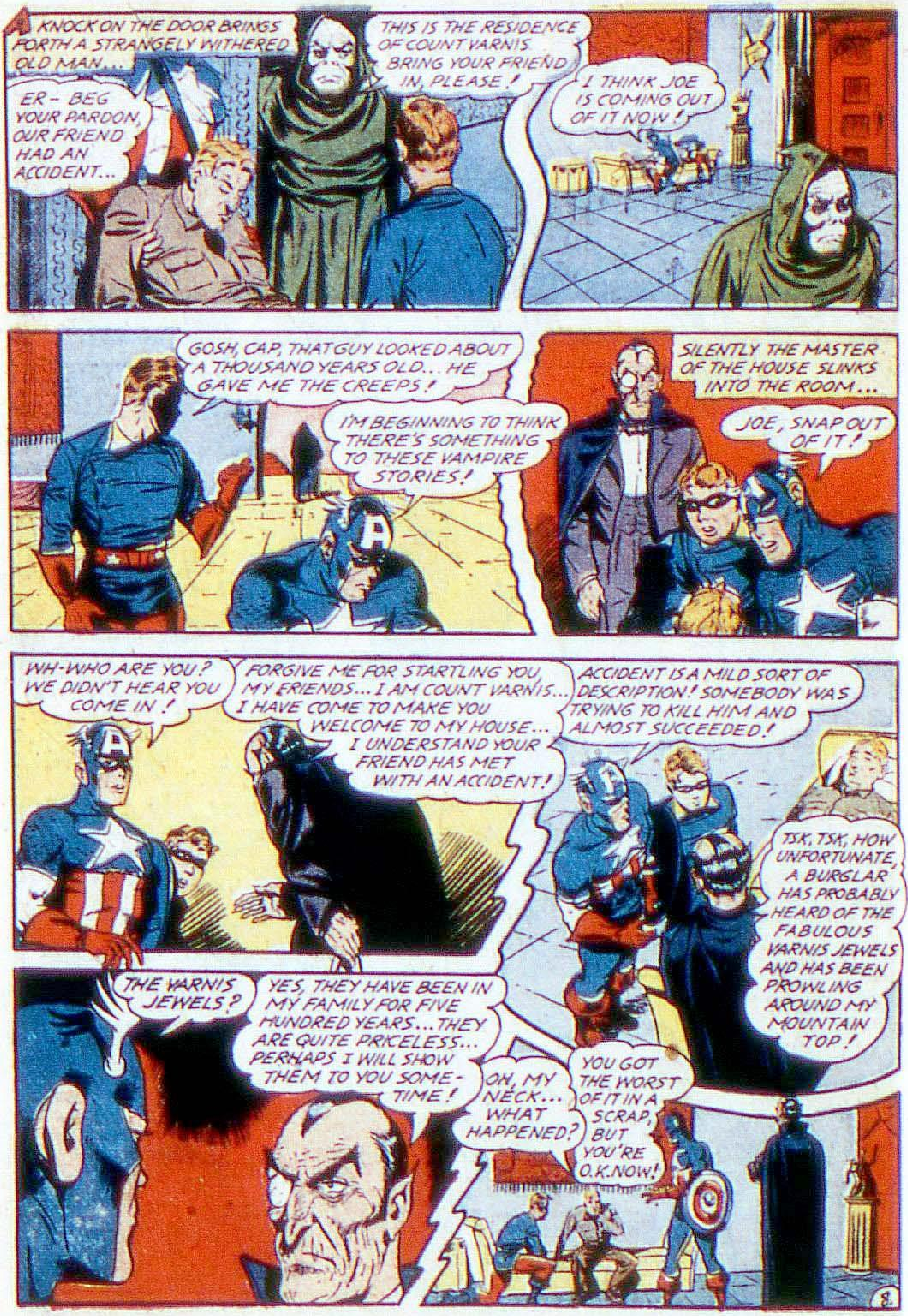

ROGERS... AND YOU... YOU LITTLE BRAT!.. AND YOU, DAWSON... I'LL SKIN YOU ALL ALIVE FOR THIS... I'LL... I'LL!©!!✱?*!!?!
OH, OH, STEVE!
LET'S MAKE TRACKS, KID!
STOP I ORDER YOU TO STOP! I'LL HAVE YOU ALL SHOT FOR THIS!
OH, WHEN I GET MY HANDS ON THEM!
OOOOPH!
WHA?
DUFFY, WHAT'S THE MEANING OF THIS?
I'M SORRY, SIR! I WAS FASTING TOO RUN... I MEAN RASTING TOO FUN.. I MEAN....
...I DIDN'T MEAN TO, SIR, ...YOU SEE...
SHUT UP, YOU RAVING IDIOT! I WAS JUST LOOKING FOR YOU... YOU'RE TO SEND THREE MEN TO PLACE A SEARCH-LIGHT ON TOP OF VAMPIRE MOUNTAIN.. CAN YOU GET THAT THRU YOUR THICK SKULL?
NO, SIR... I MEAN YES SIR... YES COLONEL!
GET GOING!
VAMPIRE'S MOUNTAIN, EH? THREE MEN, EH? I'VE HEARD SOME FUNNY STORIES ABOUT THAT MOUNTAIN AND I THINK I KNOW JUST THE THREE MEN TO SEND!

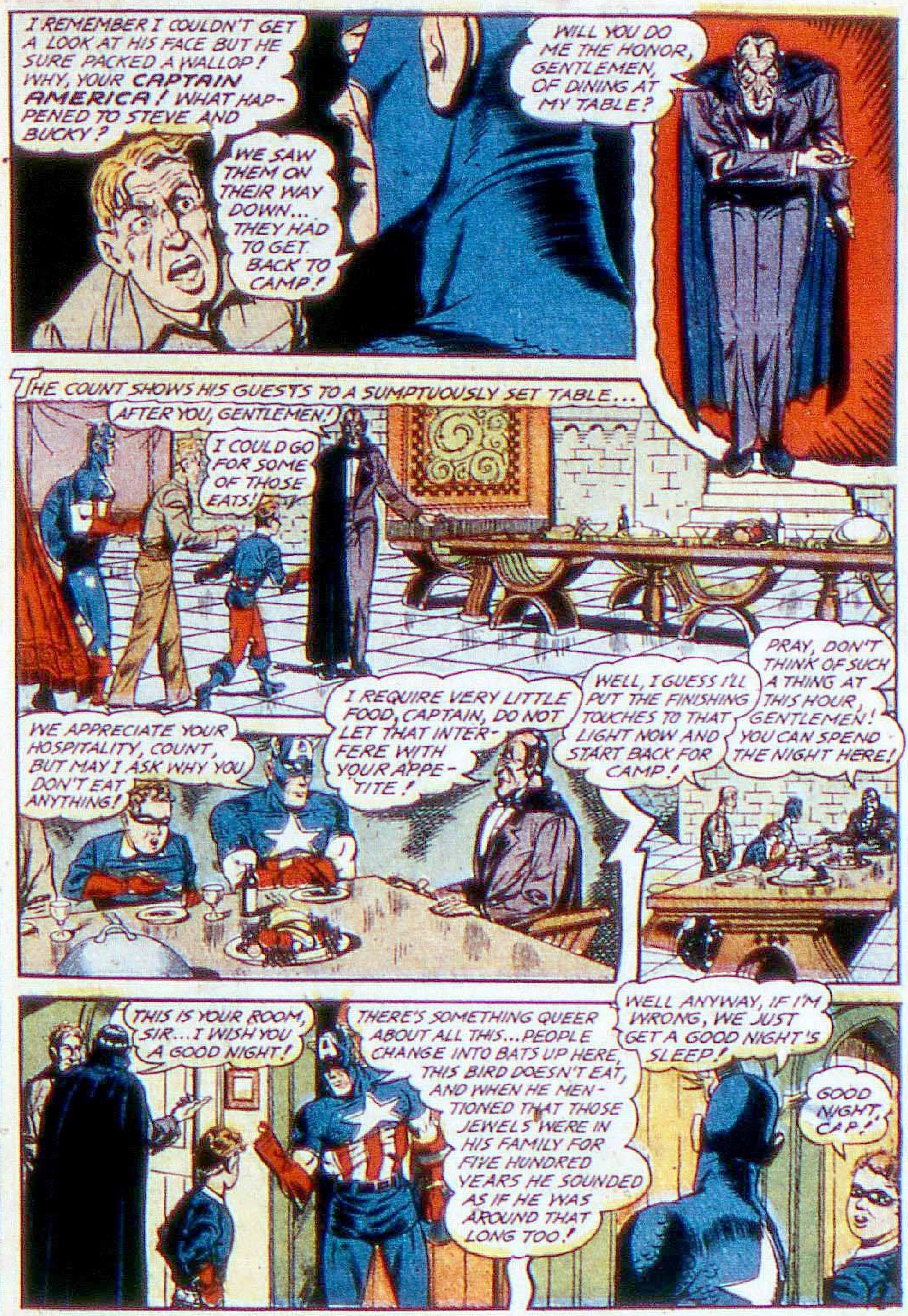

ROGERS! DAWSON, BUCKY, STEP FORWARD!
OH, OH, HERE IT COMES!
NOW THEN YOU NUMBSKULLS... SEE THAT SEARCHLIGHT ON THE TRUCK... YOU'RE TO FIX IT IN POSITION ON THE TOP OF VAMPIRE'S MOUNTAIN, DO YOU GET THAT? VAMPIRE'S MOUNTAIN!
Y-YES SIR!
AS THE THREE PREPARE TO DEPART...
...AND I HOPE THEY REALLY HAVE A VAMPIRE UP THERE AND HE BITES YOUR BLASTED HEADS OFF!
VAMPIRE'S MOUNTAIN, EH? GLAD IT AIN'T ME! I HEAR NOBODY EVER CAME OFF THERE ALIVE!
AW, NUTS!
THE CLIMB UP THE TOWERING MOUNTAIN BEGINS!
BOY, WHAT A HILL THIS IS... I HOPE THIS TRUCK MAKES IT!
SAY, STEVE, DO YOU THINK THERE'S ANYTHING IN THIS BUSINESS ABOUT A VAMPIRE LIVING ON TOP OF THE MOUNTAIN?
SOUNDS LIKE A FAIRY TALE TO ME, BUCKY, BUT I'VE HEARD STORIES ABOUT STRANGE CREATURES PROWLING AROUND THERE AT NIGHT....
SUDDENLY, THE VIBRATIONS OF THE TRUCK LOOSENS A HUGE BOULDER...

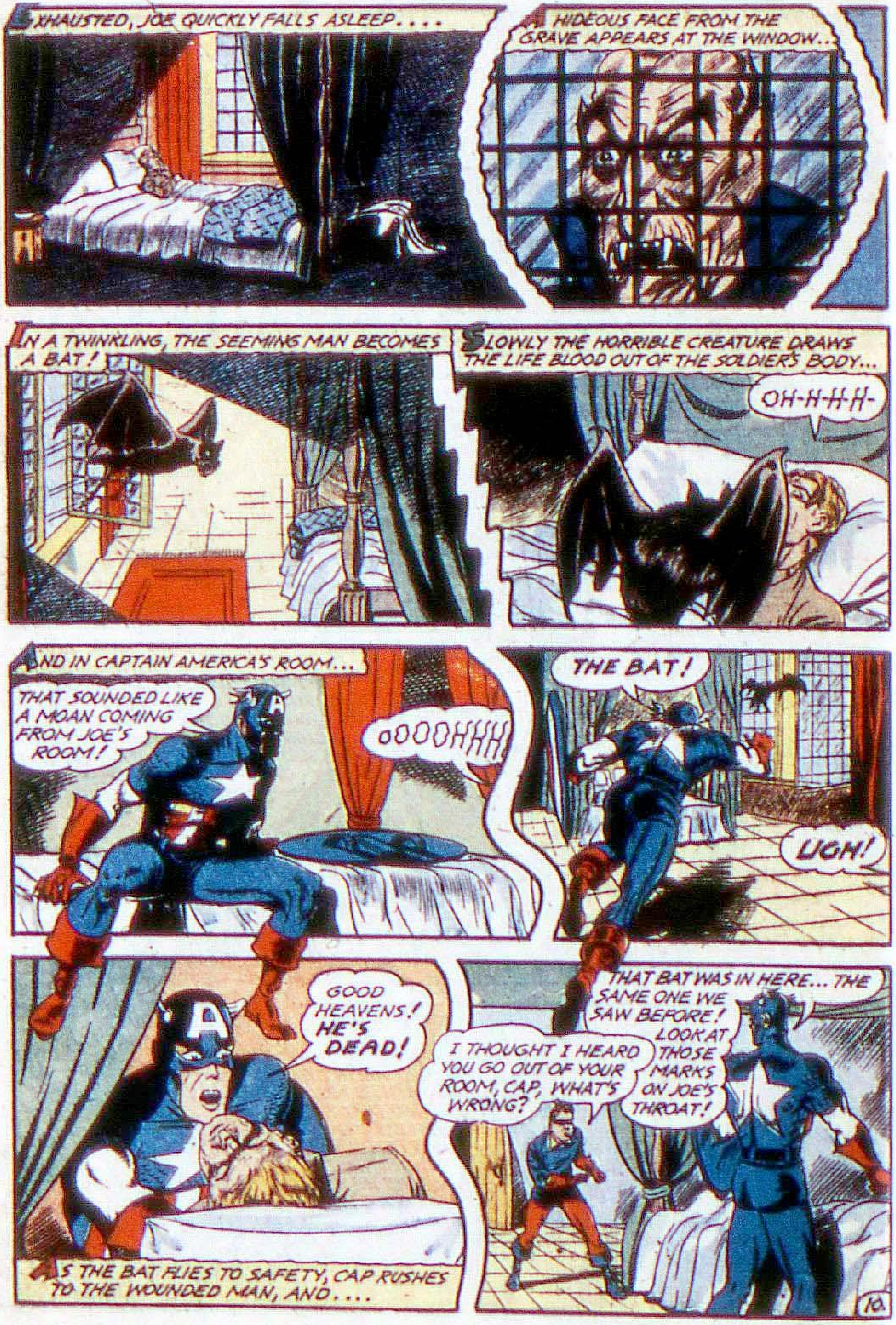

AND SOON A SMALL AVALANCHE BLOCKS THE ROAD...
OW, WHAT A MESS! HERE'S WHERE WE HAVE TO PUT IN A LONG DAY WITH A SHOVEL BEFORE WE CAN GET BACK THRU THAT!
JOE, IT'S ONLY A SHORT WAY TO THE TOP... YOU'D BETTER GO ON UP AND GET TO WORK ON THE LIGHT! BUCKY AND I'LL START DIGGING... OTHERWISE WE'LL NEVER GET THRU!
STEVE AND BUCKY START DIGGING...
I'D RATHER TAKE MY EXERCISE SOME OTHER WAY!
AS JOE DAWSON REACHES THE TOP OF THE MOUNTAIN...
THAT PLACE LOOKS AS IF NOBODY'S BEEN IN IT IN A HUNDRED YEARS... WELL, I'D BETTER GET TO WORK... IT'LL BE DARK SOON...
THE GLOOM DEEPENS AS NIGHT DRAWS NEAR...
THIS WON'T TAKE MUCH LONGER... I WONDER HOW STEVE AND BUCKY ARE MAKING OUT!
SUDDENLY, A STRANGE FIGURE MOVES NOISELESSLY TOWARD THE UNSUSPECTING SOLDIER...
A SOLDIER! I SHALL DRINK HIS RICH, STRONG, BLOOD, THEN MAKE HIM ONE OF MY BREED!
JOE FEELS A COLD, CLAMY HAND...
I AM HONORED BY THIS VISIT TO MY MOUNTAIN-TOP!
WHA...

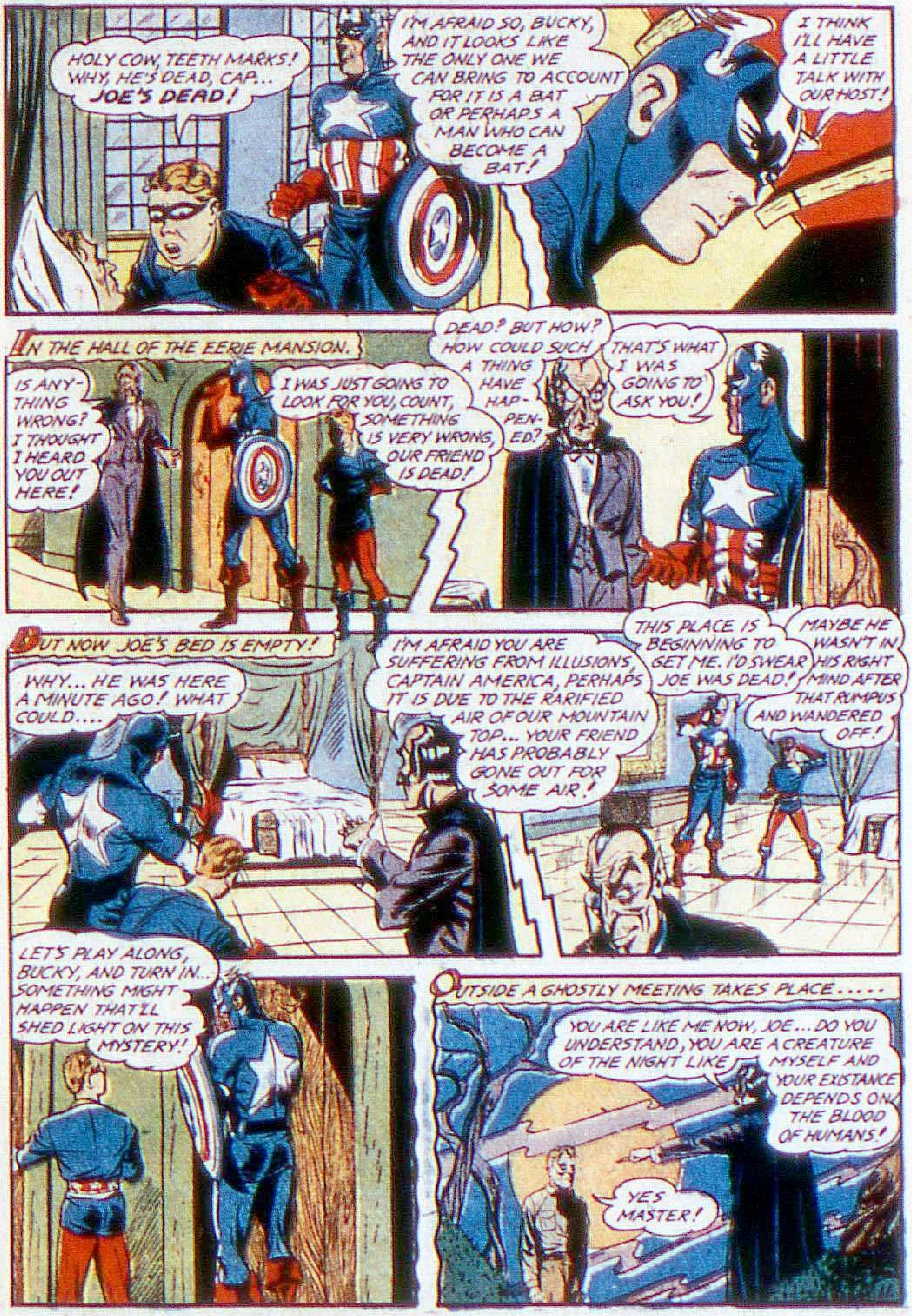

WHO ARE YOU? WHAT DO YOU WANT?
I AM HE WHO SLEEPS BY DAY AND WALKS RESTLESSLY THROUGH THE GLOOM OF NIGHT... AND YOU SHALL BE LIKE ME!
IN A MOMENT JOE FINDS HIMSELF IN A VISELIKE GRIP...
YOUR BLOOD! I MUST DRINK YOUR BLOOD!
HEY, LEGGO!
JOE TEARS HIMSELF LOOSE!
I'LL PIN YOUR EARS BACK! THAT'S WHAT I'LL DO!
YOU RESIST IN VAIN!
BUT THE VAMPIRE IS TOO STRONG FOR HIM...
STEVE! HELP!
YOUR BLOOD! YOUR BLOOD!
STEVE AND BUCKY HEAR JOE'S CRY...
THAT SOUNDS LIKE JOE... HE MUST BE IN TROUBLE!
QUICK, BUCKY, THIS MAY BE SOMETHING FOR CAPTAIN AMERICA!
IN A FLASH THE TWO ARE IN THEIR FIGHTING COSTUMES!
WE'LL KNOW SOON ENOUGH!
THINK IT MIGHT BE THOSE VAMPIRES, CAP?
WHOEVER YOU ARE MISTER... YOU'RE GOING TO GET IT NOW!
CAP AND BUCKY BURST IN UPON THE AWFUL SCENE!

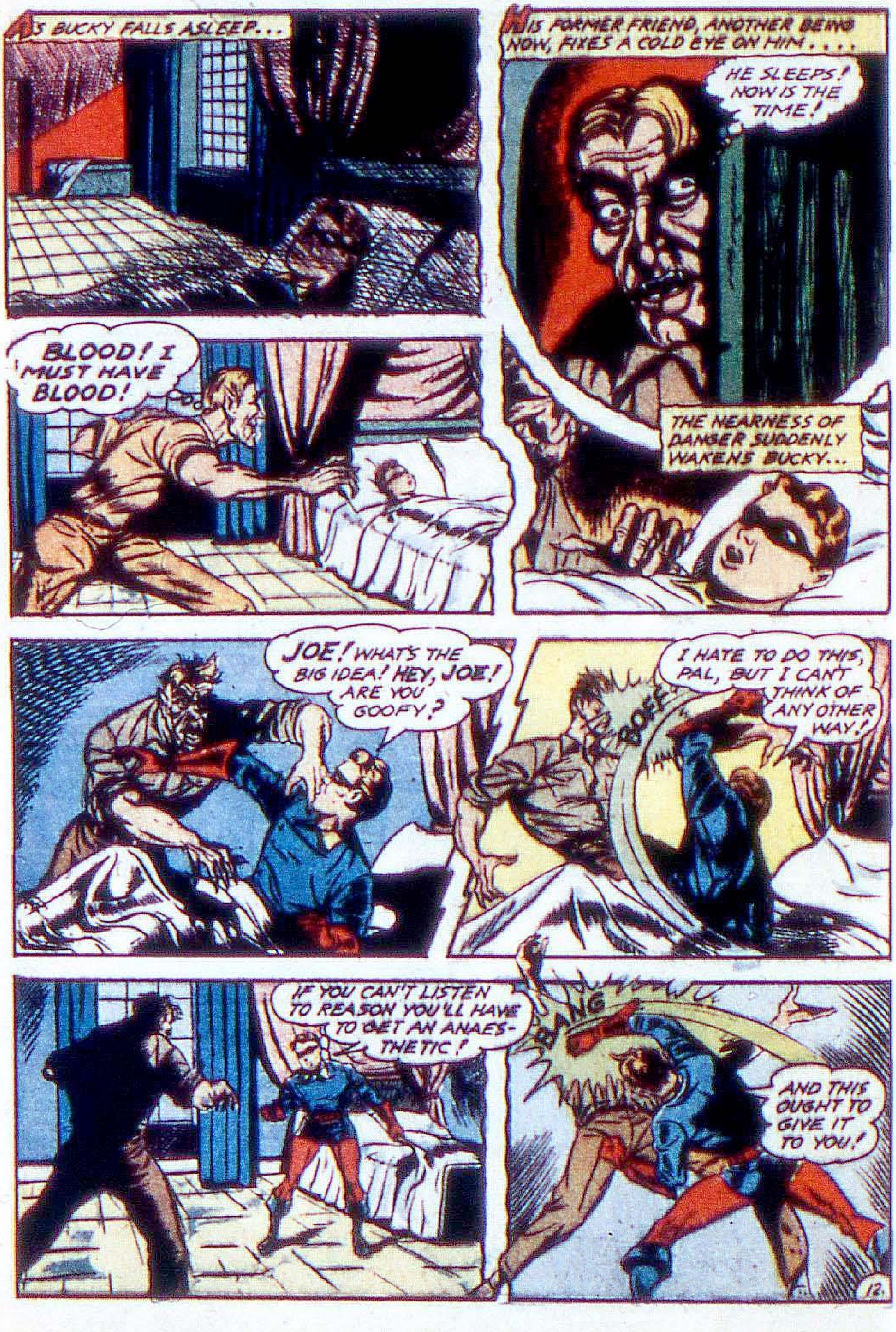

BUT CAPTAIN AMERICA'S BLOWS DO NOT HAVE THEIR USUAL TELLING EFFECT THIS TIME...
NOW YOUR END DRAWS NEAR, MY FRIEND!
GATHERING ALL HIS STRENGTH, CAP LASHES OUT AGAIN!
THIS OUGHT TO CHANGE YOUR MIND FOR YOU!
AS CAPTAIN AMERICA AND BUCKY APPROACH THEIR DEADLY FOE....
NOW TO GET A LOOK AT THIS BIRD AND SEE WHO HE IS....
BUT AS CAP AND BUCKY DRAW NEAR THEIR STRICKEN FOE, HE SUDDENLY ASSUMES THE FORM OF A BAT!
HOLY CATS!
HE CHANGED INTO A BAT UNDER OUR VERY NOSES!
IF I HADN'T SEEN IT WITH MY OWN EYES I'D NEVER BELIEVE IT... SAY, WE'D BETTER LOOK AFTER JOE!
WE'VE GOT TO BRING JOE TO... MAYBE IF WE TAKE HIM INTO THE HOUSE WE'LL FIND SOMETHING TO REVIVE HIM WITH!
MAYBE THOSE STORIES AREN'T AS GOOFY AS I THOUGHT THEY WERE! VAMPIRES ARE SUPPOSED TO BE ABLE TO CHANGE THEMSELVES INTO BATS!
GOSH, THIS HOUSE LOOKS AS IF VAMPIRES MIGHT BE LIVING IN IT... I'M SURE NOBODY ELSE WOULD!

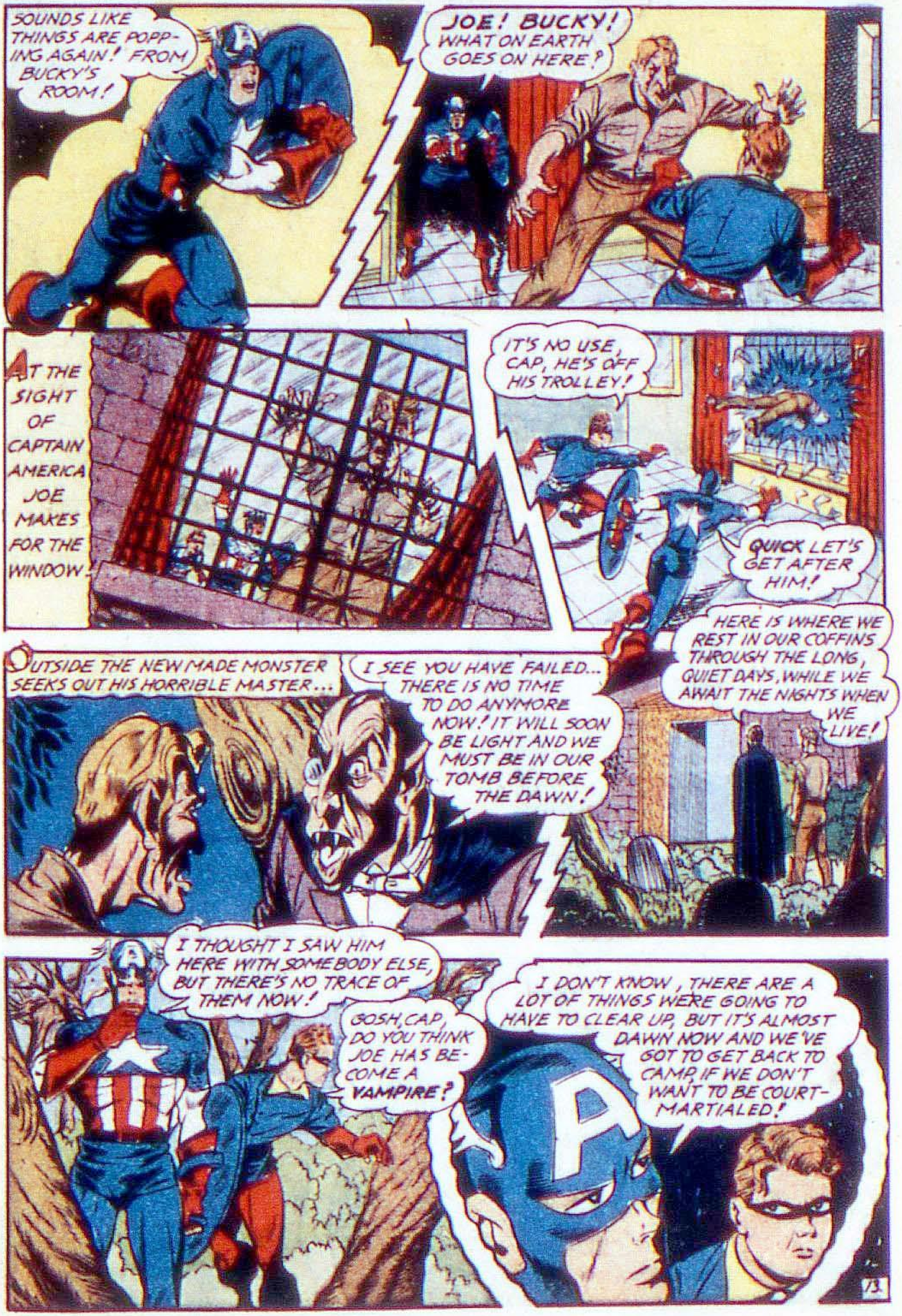

A KNOCK ON THE DOOR BRINGS FORTH A STRANGELY WITHERED OLD MAN...
ER - BEG YOUR PARDON, OUR FRIEND HAD AN ACCIDENT...
THIS IS THE RESIDENCE OF COUNT VARNIS. BRING YOUR FRIEND IN, PLEASE!
I THINK JOE IS COMING OUT OF IT NOW!
GOSH, CAP, THAT GUY LOOKED ABOUT A THOUSAND YEARS OLD... HE GAVE ME THE CREEPS!
I'M BEGINNING TO THINK THERE'S SOMETHING TO THESE VAMPIRE STORIES!
SILENTLY THE MASTER OF THE HOUSE SLINKS INTO THE ROOM...
JOE, SNAP OUT OF IT!
WH-WHO ARE YOU? WE DIDN'T HEAR YOU COME IN!
FORGIVE ME FOR STARTLING YOU, MY FRIENDS... I AM COUNT VARNIS... I HAVE COME TO MAKE YOU WELCOME TO MY HOUSE... I UNDERSTAND YOUR FRIEND HAS MET WITH AN ACCIDENT!
ACCIDENT IS A MILD SORT OF DESCRIPTION! SOMEBODY WAS TRYING TO KILL HIM AND ALMOST SUCCEEDED!
TSK, TSK, HOW UNFORTUNATE, A BURGLAR HAS PROBABLY HEARD OF THE FABULOUS VARNIS JEWELS AND HAS BEEN PROWLING AROUND MY MOUNTAIN TOP!
THE VARNIS JEWELS?
YES, THEY HAVE BEEN IN MY FAMILY FOR FIVE HUNDRED YEARS...THEY ARE QUITE PRICELESS... PERHAPS I WILL SHOW THEM TO YOU SOMETIME!
OH, MY NECK... WHAT HAPPENED?
YOU GOT THE WORST OF IT IN A SCRAP, BUT YOU'RE O.K. NOW!

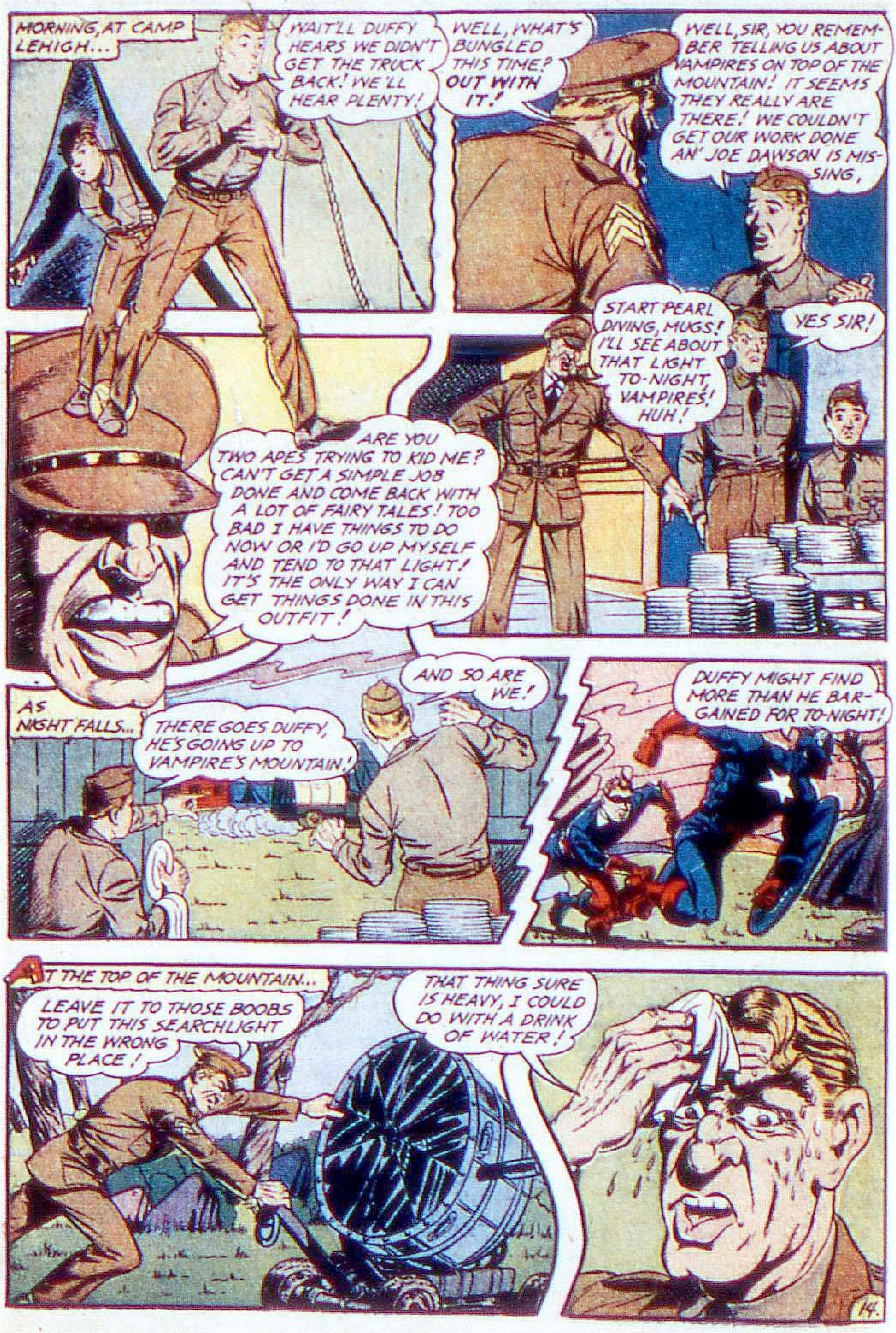

I REMEMBER I COULDN'T GET A LOOK AT HIS FACE BUT HE SURE PACKED A WALLOP! WHY, YOUR CAPTAIN AMERICA! WHAT HAPPENED TO STEVE AND BUCKY?
WE SAW THEM ON THEIR WAY DOWN... THEY HAD TO GET BACK TO CAMP!
WILL YOU DO ME THE HONOR, GENTLEMEN, OF DINING AT MY TABLE?
THE COUNT SHOWS HIS GUESTS TO A SUMPTUOUSLY SET TABLE...
AFTER YOU, GENTLEMEN!
I COULD GO FOR SOME OF THOSE EATS!
WE APPRECIATE YOUR HOSPITALITY, COUNT, BUT MAY I ASK WHY YOU DON'T EAT ANYTHING!
I REQUIRE VERY LITTLE FOOD, CAPTAIN, DO NOT LET THAT INTERFERE WITH YOUR APPETITE!
WELL, I GUESS I'LL PUT THE FINISHING TOUCHES TO THAT LIGHT NOW AND START BACK FOR CAMP!
PRAY, DON'T THINK OF SUCH A THING AT THIS HOUR, GENTLEMEN! YOU CAN SPEND THE NIGHT HERE!
THIS IS YOUR ROOM, SIR... I WISH YOU A GOOD NIGHT!
THERE'S SOMETHING QUEER ABOUT ALL THIS... PEOPLE CHANGE INTO BATS UP HERE, THIS BIRD DOESN'T EAT, AND WHEN HE MENTIONED THAT THOSE JEWELS WERE IN HIS FAMILY FOR FIVE HUNDRED YEARS HE SOUNDED AS IF HE WAS AROUND THAT LONG TOO!
WELL ANYWAY, IF I'M WRONG, WE JUST GET A GOOD NIGHT'S SLEEP!
GOOD NIGHT, CAP!

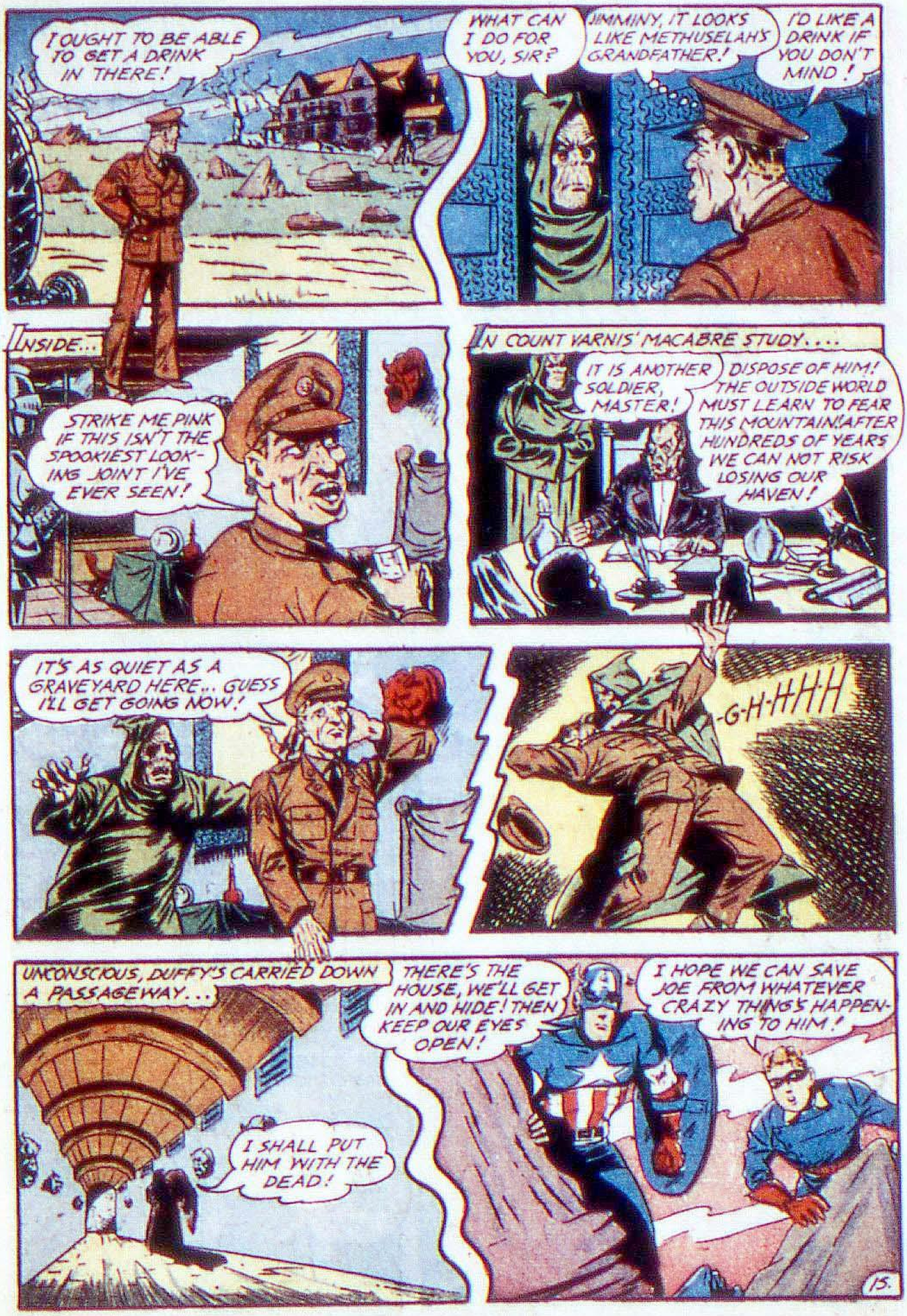

EXHAUSTED, JOE QUICKLY FALLS ASLEEP . . . .
A HIDEOUS FACE FROM THE GRAVE APPEARS AT THE WINDOW...
IN A TWINKLING, THE SEEMING MAN BECOMES A BAT!
SLOWLY THE HORRIBLE CREATURE DRAWS THE LIFE BLOOD OUT OF THE SOLDIER'S BODY...
OH-H-H-H-
AND IN CAPTAIN AMERICA'S ROOM...
THAT SOUNDED LIKE A MOAN COMING FROM JOE'S ROOM!
OOOOHHH
THE BAT!
UGH!
GOOD HEAVENS! HE'S DEAD!
AS THE BAT FLIES TO SAFETY, CAP RUSHES TO THE WOUNDED MAN, AND....
I THOUGHT I HEARD YOU GO OUT OF YOUR ROOM, CAP, WHAT'S WRONG?
THAT BAT WAS IN HERE... THE SAME ONE WE SAW BEFORE! LOOK AT THOSE MARKS ON JOE'S THROAT!
10.

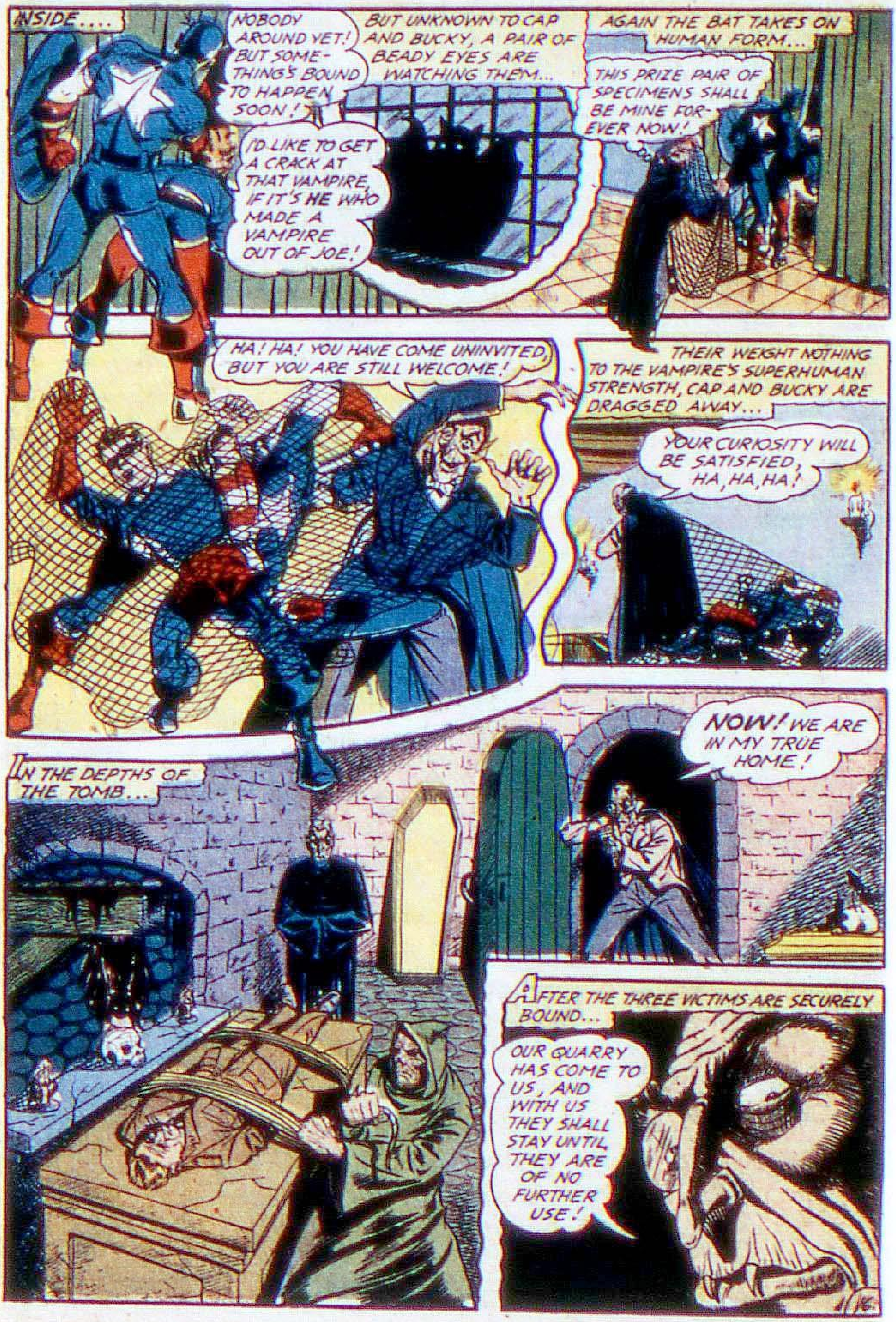

HOLY COW, TEETH MARKS! WHY, HE'S DEAD, CAP... JOE'S DEAD!
I'M AFRAID SO, BUCKY, AND IT LOOKS LIKE THE ONLY ONE WE CAN BRING TO ACCOUNT FOR IT IS A BAT OR PERHAPS A MAN WHO CAN BECOME A BAT!
I THINK I'LL HAVE A LITTLE TALK WITH OUR HOST!
IN THE HALL OF THE EERIE MANSION.
IS ANYTHING WRONG? I THOUGHT I HEARD YOU OUT HERE!
I WAS JUST GOING TO LOOK FOR YOU, COUNT, SOMETHING IS VERY WRONG, OUR FRIEND IS DEAD!
DEAD? BUT HOW? HOW COULD SUCH A THING HAVE HAPPENED?
THAT'S WHAT I WAS GOING TO ASK YOU!
BUT NOW JOE'S BED IS EMPTY!
WHY... HE WAS HERE A MINUTE AGO! WHAT COULD....
I'M AFRAID YOU ARE SUFFERING FROM ILLUSIONS, CAPTAIN AMERICA, PERHAPS IT IS DUE TO THE RARIFIED AIR OF OUR MOUNTAIN TOP... YOUR FRIEND HAS PROBABLY GONE OUT FOR SOME AIR!
THIS PLACE IS BEGINNING TO GET ME. I'D SWEAR JOE WAS DEAD!
MAYBE HE WASN'T IN HIS RIGHT MIND AFTER THAT RUMPUS AND WANDERED OFF!
LET'S PLAY ALONG, BUCKY, AND TURN IN... SOMETHING MIGHT HAPPEN THAT'LL SHED LIGHT ON THIS MYSTERY!
OUTSIDE A GHOSTLY MEETING TAKES PLACE.....
YOU ARE LIKE ME NOW, JOE... DO YOU UNDERSTAND, YOU ARE A CREATURE OF THE NIGHT LIKE MYSELF AND YOUR EXISTANCE DEPENDS ON THE BLOOD OF HUMANS!
YES MASTER!

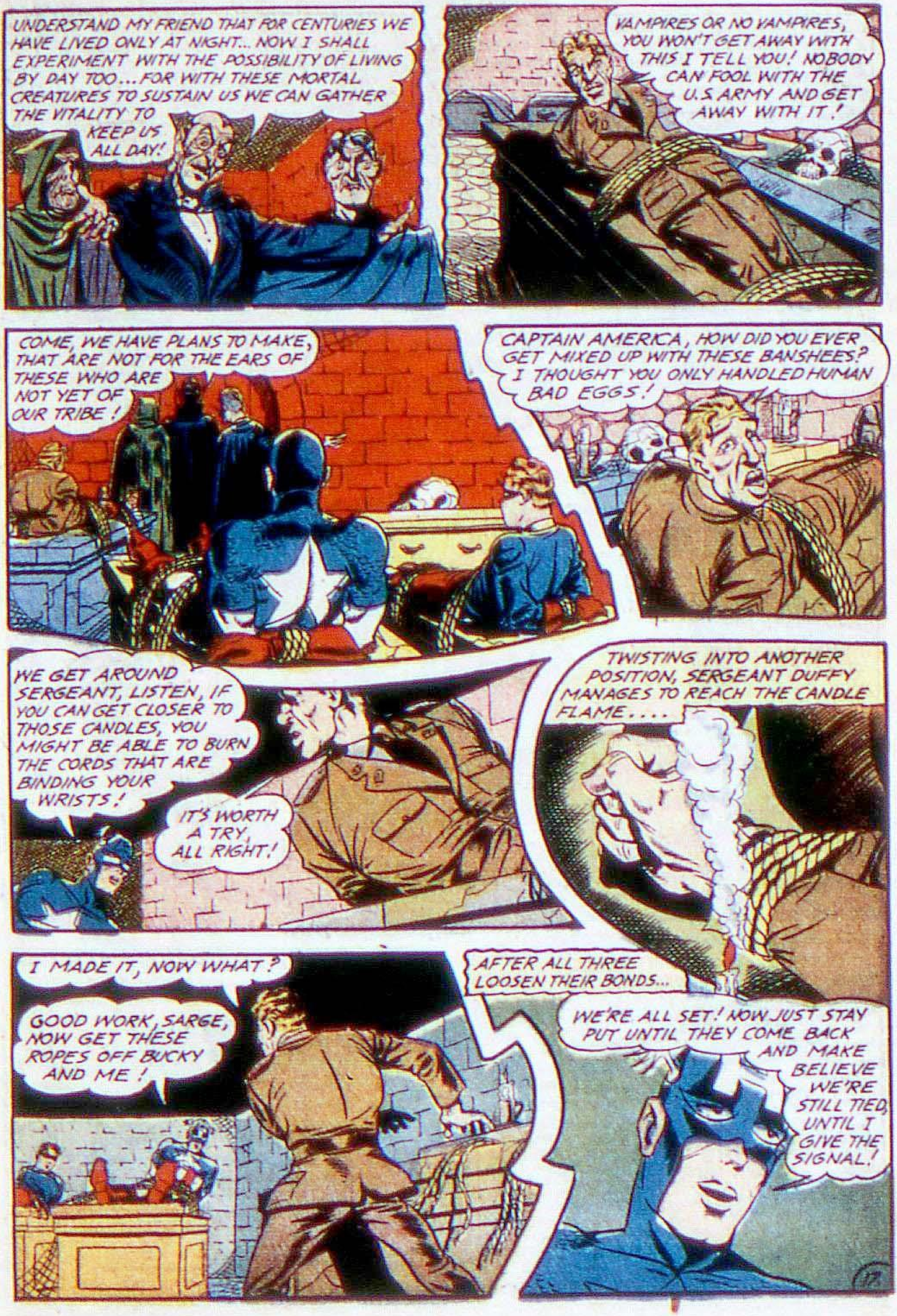

AS BUCKY FALLS ASLEEP...
HIS FORMER FRIEND, ANOTHER BEING NOW, FIXES A COLD EYE ON HIM....
HE SLEEPS! NOW IS THE TIME!
BLOOD! I MUST HAVE BLOOD!
THE NEARNESS OF DANGER SUDDENLY WAKENS BUCKY...
JOE! WHAT'S THE BIG IDEA! HEY, JOE! ARE YOU GOOFY?
I HATE TO DO THIS, PAL, BUT I CAN'T THINK OF ANY OTHER WAY!
BOFF
IF YOU CAN'T LISTEN TO REASON YOU'LL HAVE TO GET AN ANAESTHETIC!
BANG
AND THIS OUGHT TO GIVE IT TO YOU!

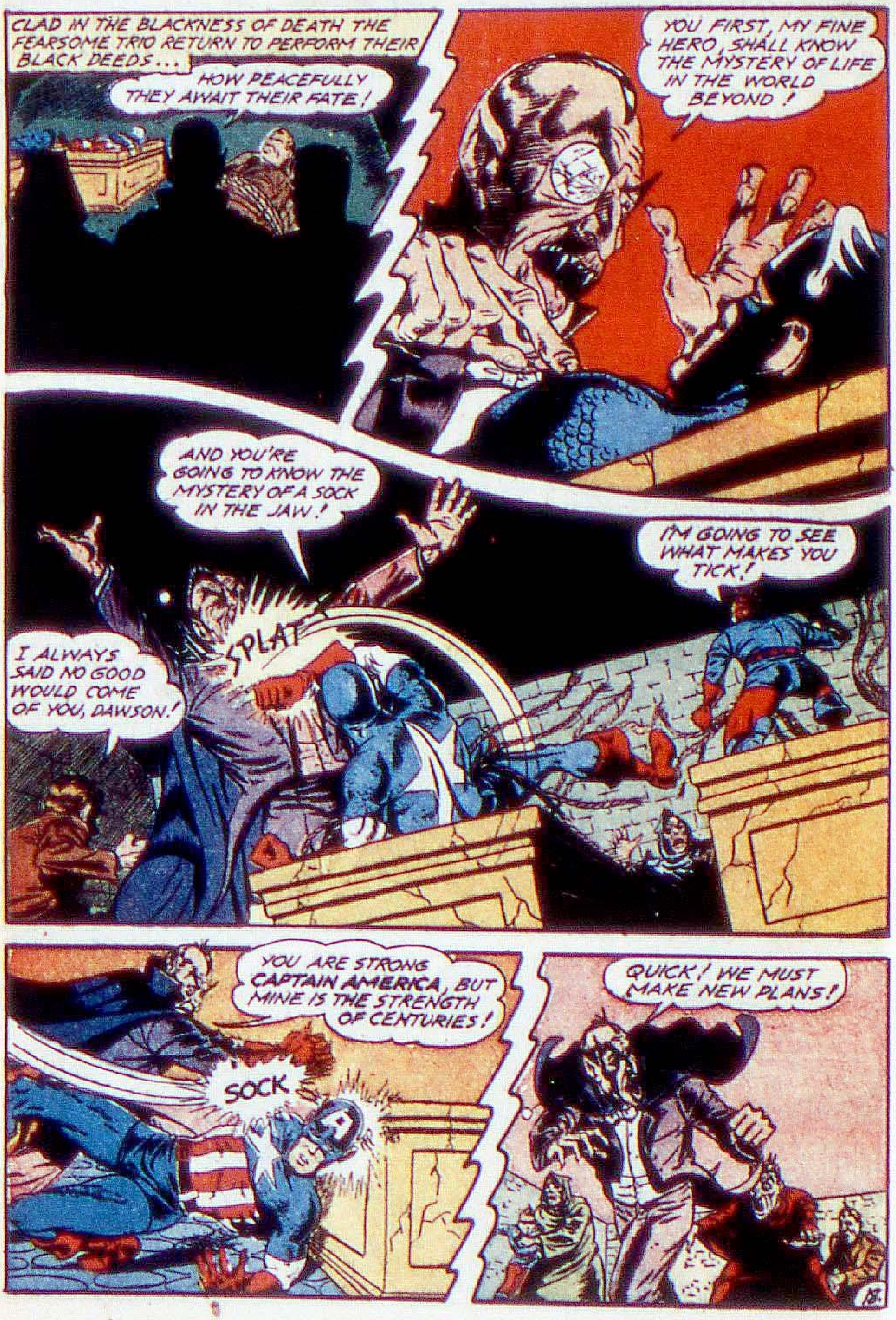

SOUNDS LIKE THINGS ARE POPPING AGAIN! FROM BUCKY'S ROOM!
JOE! BUCKY! WHAT ON EARTH GOES ON HERE?
AT THE SIGHT OF CAPTAIN AMERICA JOE MAKES FOR THE WINDOW!
IT'S NO USE, CAP, HE'S OFF HIS TROLLEY!
QUICK LET'S GET AFTER HIM!
OUTSIDE THE NEW MADE MONSTER SEEKS OUT HIS HORRIBLE MASTER...
I SEE YOU HAVE FAILED... THERE IS NO TIME TO DO ANYMORE NOW! IT WILL SOON BE LIGHT AND WE MUST BE IN OUR TOMB BEFORE THE DAWN!
HERE IS WHERE WE REST IN OUR COFFINS THROUGH THE LONG, QUIET DAYS, WHILE WE AWAIT THE NIGHTS WHEN WE LIVE!
I THOUGHT I SAW HIM HERE WITH SOMEBODY ELSE, BUT THERE'S NO TRACE OF THEM NOW!
GOSH, CAP, DO YOU THINK JOE HAS BECOME A VAMPIRE?
I DON'T KNOW, THERE ARE A LOT OF THINGS WERE GOING TO HAVE TO CLEAR UP, BUT IT'S ALMOST DAWN NOW AND WE'VE GOT TO GET BACK TO CAMP, IF WE DON'T WANT TO BE COURT-MARTIALED!

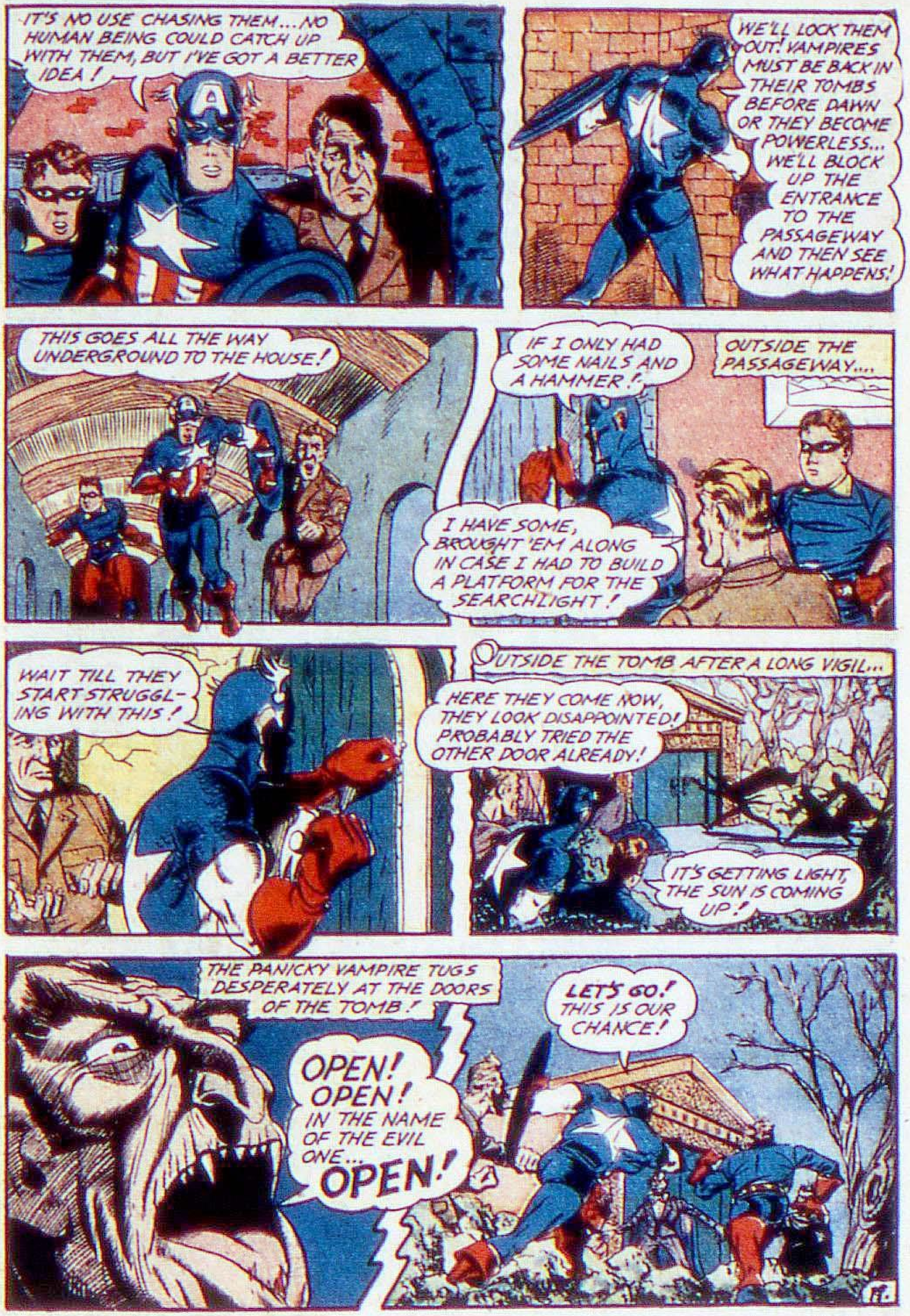

MORNING, AT CAMP LEHIGH...
WAIT'LL DUFFY HEARS WE DIDN'T GET THE TRUCK BACK! WE'LL HEAR PLENTY!
WELL, WHAT'S BUNGLED THIS TIME? **OUT WITH IT!**
WELL, SIR, YOU REMEMBER TELLING US ABOUT VAMPIRES ON TOP OF THE MOUNTAIN! IT SEEMS THEY REALLY ARE THERE! WE COULDN'T GET OUR WORK DONE AN' JOE DAWSON IS MISSING,
ARE YOU TWO APES TRYING TO KID ME? CAN'T GET A SIMPLE JOB DONE AND COME BACK WITH A LOT OF FAIRY TALES! TOO BAD I HAVE THINGS TO DO NOW OR I'D GO UP MYSELF AND TEND TO THAT LIGHT! IT'S THE ONLY WAY I CAN GET THINGS DONE IN THIS OUTFIT!
START PEARL DIVING, MUGS! I'LL SEE ABOUT THAT LIGHT TO-NIGHT, VAMPIRES! HUH!
YES SIR!
AS NIGHT FALLS...
THERE GOES DUFFY, HE'S GOING UP TO VAMPIRE'S MOUNTAIN!
AND SO ARE WE!
DUFFY MIGHT FIND MORE THAN HE BARGAINED FOR TO-NIGHT!
AT THE TOP OF THE MOUNTAIN...
LEAVE IT TO THOSE BOOBS TO PUT THIS SEARCHLIGHT IN THE WRONG PLACE!
THAT THING SURE IS HEAVY, I COULD DO WITH A DRINK OF WATER!

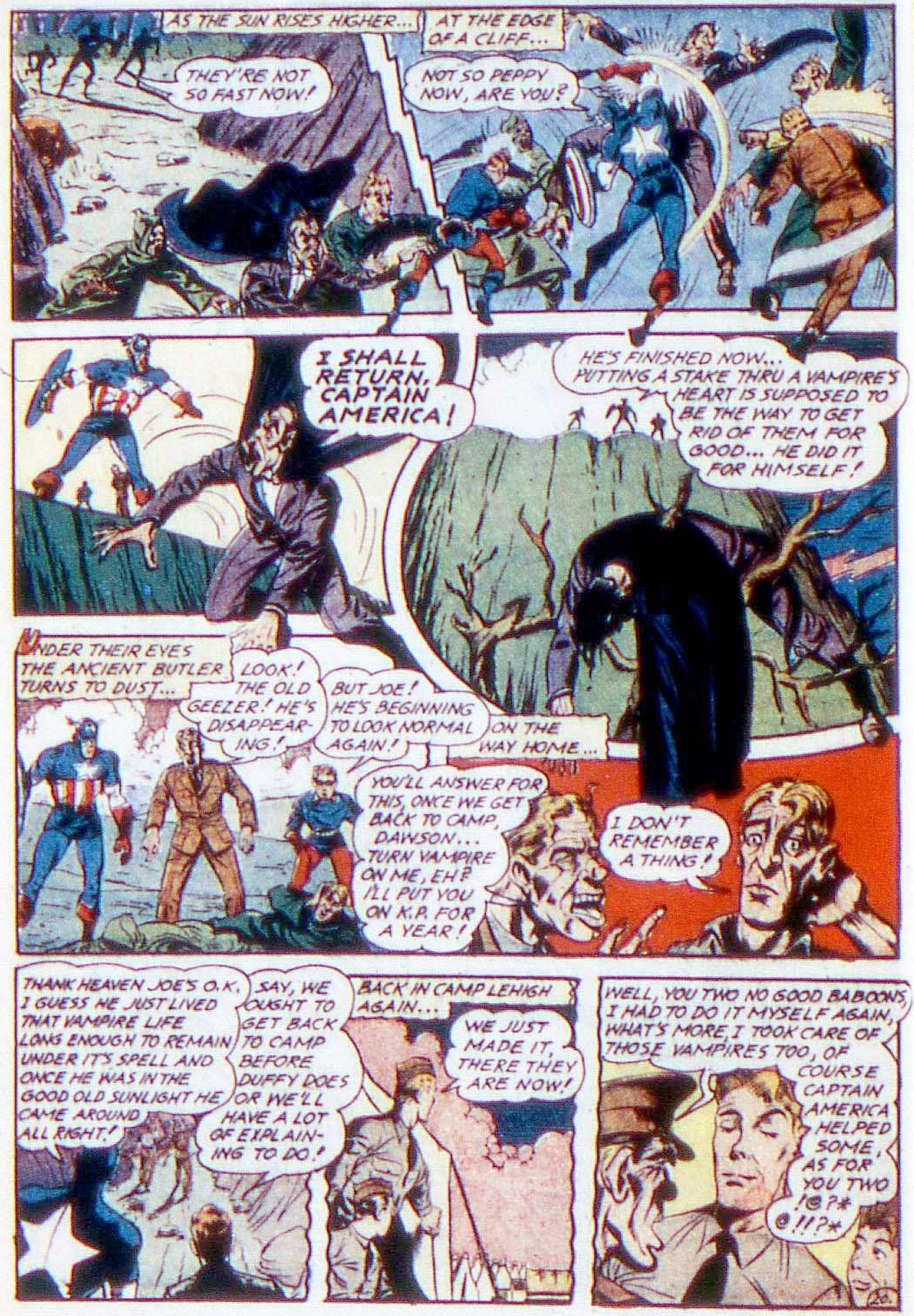

I OUGHT TO BE ABLE TO GET A DRINK IN THERE!
WHAT CAN I DO FOR YOU, SIR?
JIMMINY, IT LOOKS LIKE METHUSELAH'S GRANDFATHER!
I'D LIKE A DRINK IF YOU DON'T MIND!
INSIDE...
STRIKE ME PINK IF THIS ISN'T THE SPOOKIEST LOOKING JOINT I'VE EVER SEEN!
IN COUNT VARNIS' MACABRE STUDY....
IT IS ANOTHER SOLDIER, MASTER!
DISPOSE OF HIM! THE OUTSIDE WORLD MUST LEARN TO FEAR THIS MOUNTAIN! AFTER HUNDREDS OF YEARS WE CAN NOT RISK LOSING OUR HAVEN!
IT'S AS QUIET AS A GRAVEYARD HERE... GUESS I'LL GET GOING NOW!
-G-H-H-H-H
UNCONSCIOUS, DUFFY'S CARRIED DOWN A PASSAGEWAY...
I SHALL PUT HIM WITH THE DEAD!
THERE'S THE HOUSE, WE'LL GET IN AND HIDE! THEN KEEP OUR EYES OPEN!
I HOPE WE CAN SAVE JOE FROM WHATEVER CRAZY THING'S HAPPENING TO HIM!

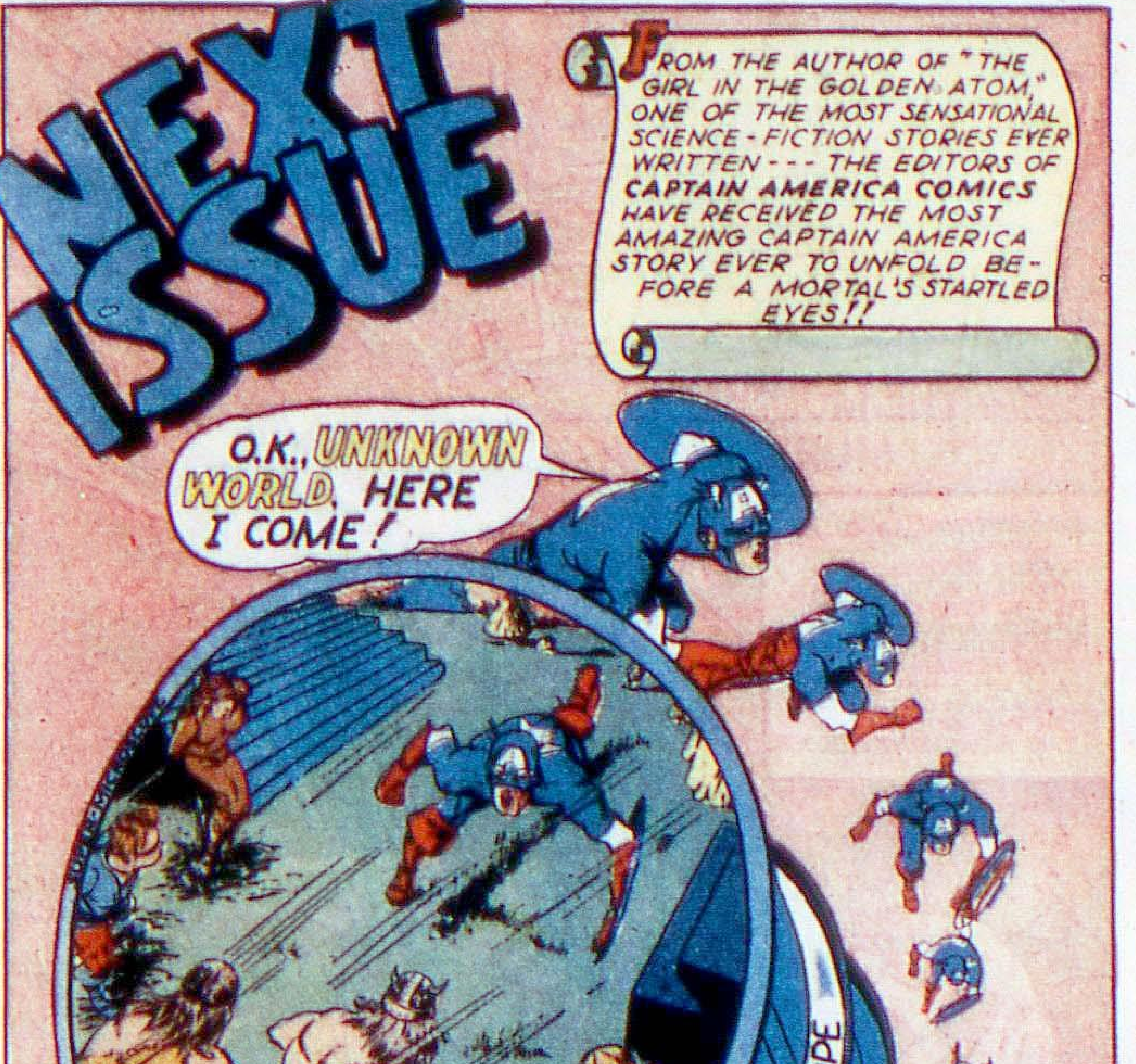

INSIDE....
NOBODY AROUND YET! BUT SOMETHING'S BOUND TO HAPPEN SOON!
I'D LIKE TO GET A CRACK AT THAT VAMPIRE, IF IT'S **HE** WHO MADE A VAMPIRE OUT OF JOE!
BUT UNKNOWN TO CAP AND BUCKY, A PAIR OF BEADY EYES ARE WATCHING THEM...
AGAIN THE BAT TAKES ON HUMAN FORM...
THIS PRIZE PAIR OF SPECIMENS SHALL BE MINE FOREVER NOW!
HA! HA! YOU HAVE COME UNINVITED, BUT YOU ARE STILL WELCOME!
THEIR WEIGHT NOTHING TO THE VAMPIRE'S SUPERHUMAN STRENGTH, CAP AND BUCKY ARE DRAGGED AWAY...
YOUR CURIOSITY WILL BE SATISFIED, HA, HA, HA!
IN THE DEPTHS OF THE TOMB...
NOW! WE ARE IN MY TRUE HOME!
AFTER THE THREE VICTIMS ARE SECURELY BOUND...
OUR QUARRY HAS COME TO US, AND WITH US THEY SHALL STAY UNTIL THEY ARE OF NO FURTHER USE!

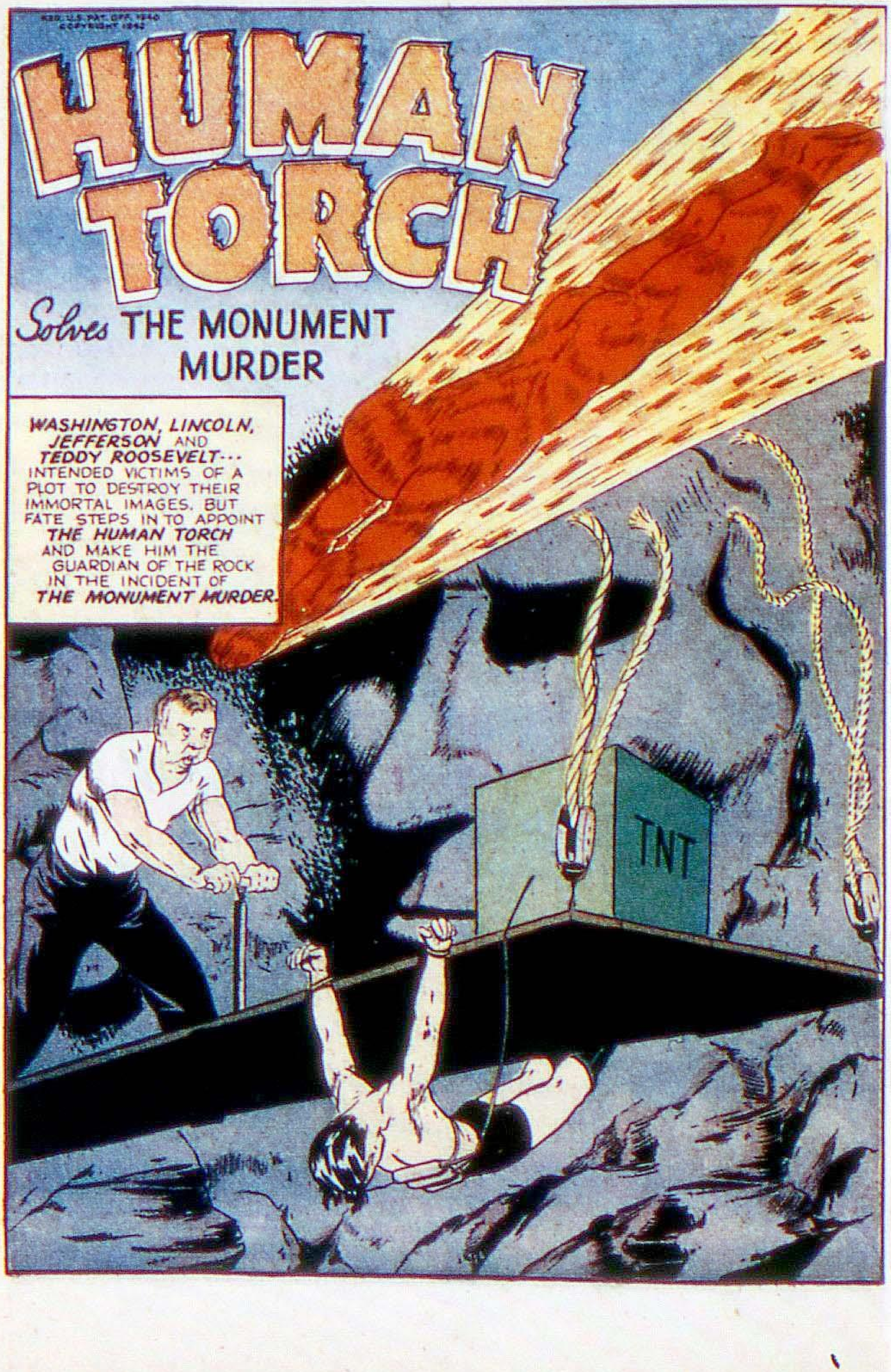

UNDERSTAND MY FRIEND THAT FOR CENTURIES WE HAVE LIVED ONLY AT NIGHT... NOW I SHALL EXPERIMENT WITH THE POSSIBILITY OF LIVING BY DAY TOO... FOR WITH THESE MORTAL CREATURES TO SUSTAIN US WE CAN GATHER THE VITALITY TO KEEP US ALL DAY!
VAMPIRES OR NO VAMPIRES, YOU WON'T GET AWAY WITH THIS I TELL YOU! NOBODY CAN FOOL WITH THE U.S ARMY AND GET AWAY WITH IT!
COME, WE HAVE PLANS TO MAKE, THAT ARE NOT FOR THE EARS OF THESE WHO ARE NOT YET OF OUR TRIBE!
CAPTAIN AMERICA, HOW DID YOU EVER GET MIXED UP WITH THESE BANSHEES? I THOUGHT YOU ONLY HANDLED HUMAN BAD EGGS!
WE GET AROUND SERGEANT, LISTEN, IF YOU CAN GET CLOSER TO THOSE CANDLES, YOU MIGHT BE ABLE TO BURN THE CORDS THAT ARE BINDING YOUR WRISTS!
IT'S WORTH A TRY, ALL RIGHT!
TWISTING INTO ANOTHER POSITION, SERGEANT DUFFY MANAGES TO REACH THE CANDLE FLAME....
I MADE IT, NOW WHAT?
GOOD WORK, SARGE, NOW GET THESE ROPES OFF BUCKY AND ME!
AFTER ALL THREE LOOSEN THEIR BONDS...
WE'RE ALL SET! NOW JUST STAY PUT UNTIL THEY COME BACK AND MAKE BELIEVE WE'RE STILL TIED, UNTIL I GIVE THE SIGNAL!

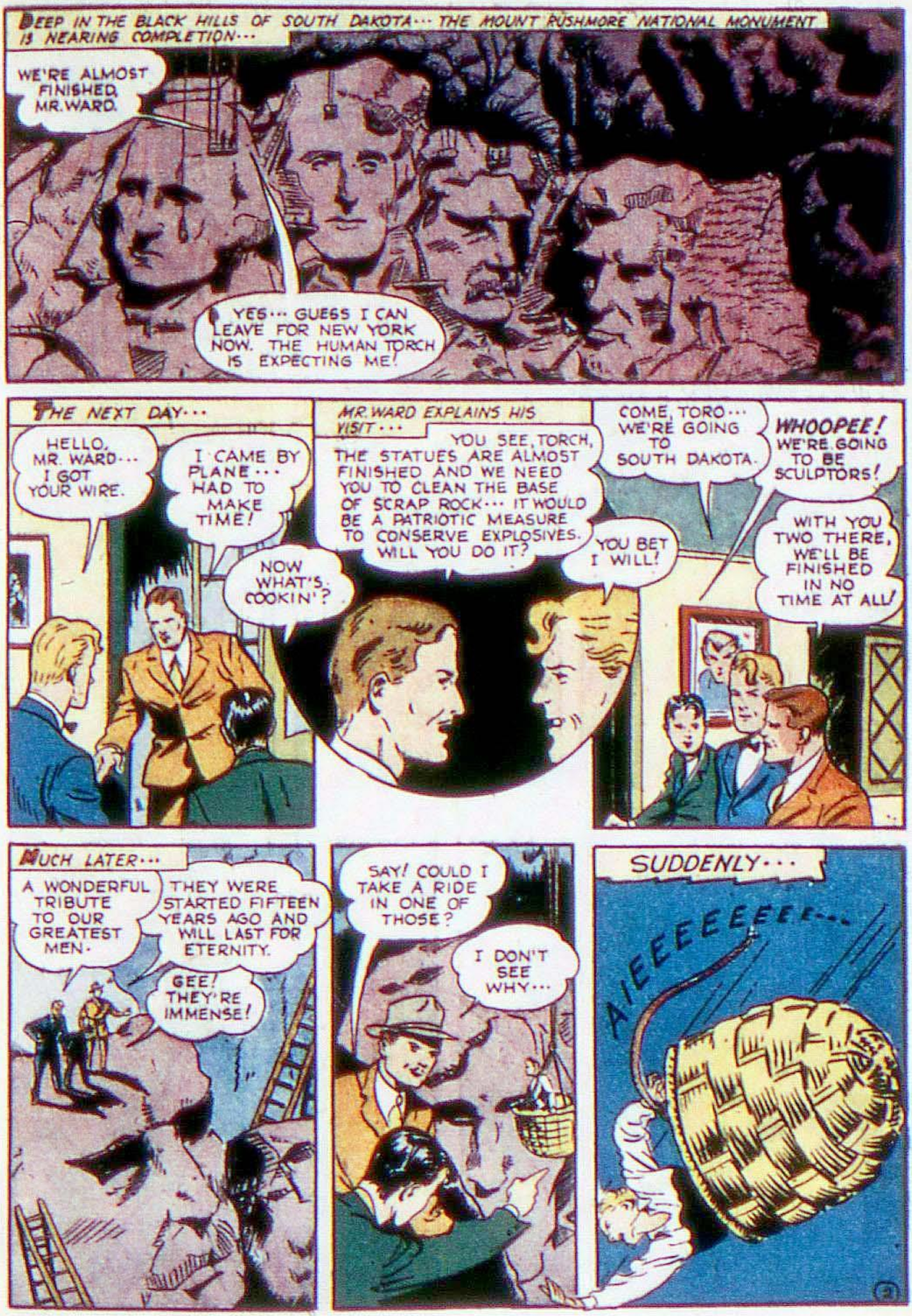

CLAD IN THE BLACKNESS OF DEATH THE FEARSOME TRIO RETURN TO PERFORM THEIR BLACK DEEDS...
HOW PEACEFULLY THEY AWAIT THEIR FATE!
YOU FIRST, MY FINE HERO, SHALL KNOW THE MYSTERY OF LIFE IN THE WORLD BEYOND!
AND YOU'RE GOING TO KNOW THE MYSTERY OF A SOCK IN THE JAW!
I'M GOING TO SEE WHAT MAKES YOU TICK!
SPLAT
I ALWAYS SAID NO GOOD WOULD COME OF YOU, DAWSON!
YOU ARE STRONG CAPTAIN AMERICA, BUT MINE IS THE STRENGTH OF CENTURIES!
SOCK
QUICK! WE MUST MAKE NEW PLANS!

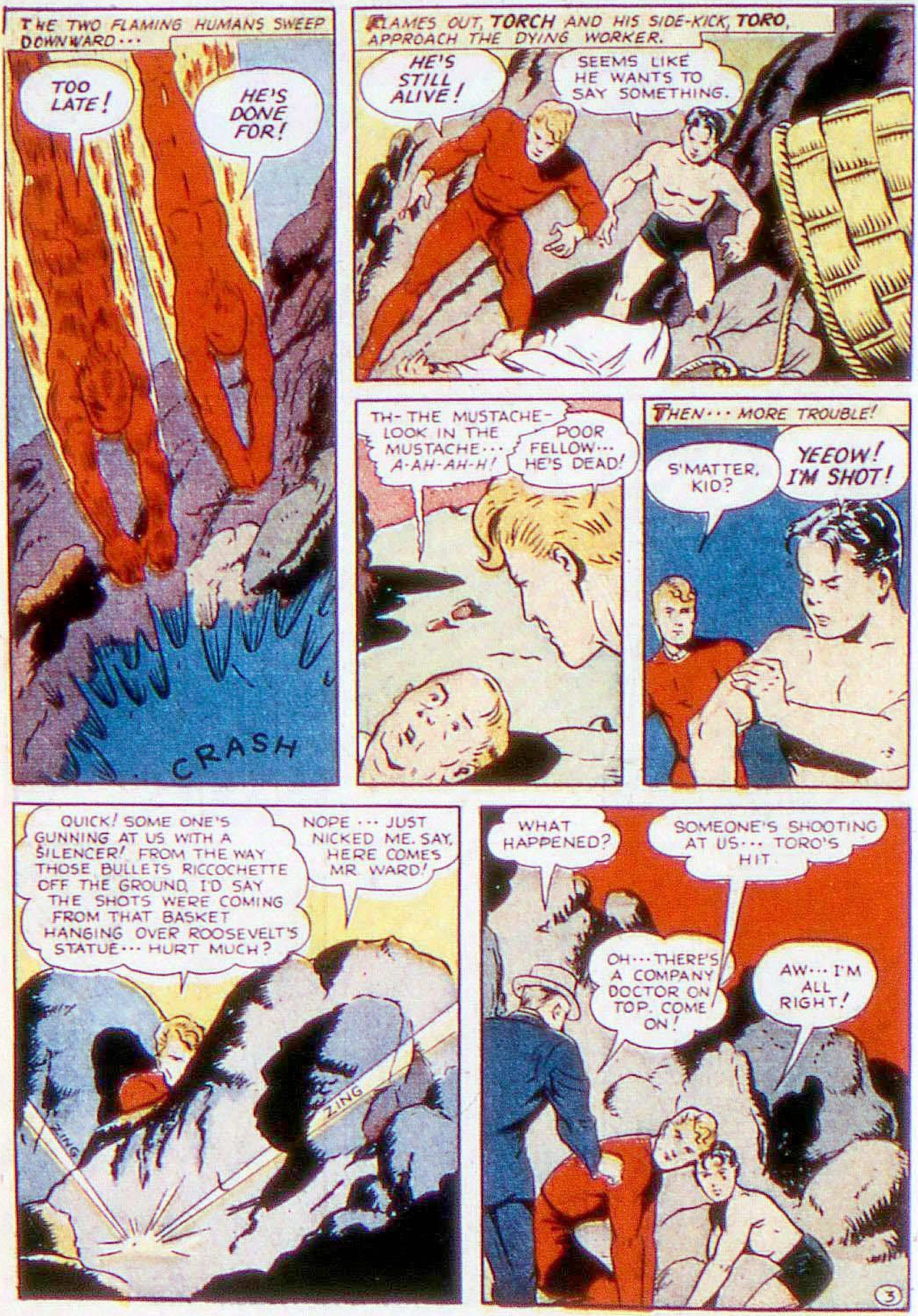

IT'S NO USE CHASING THEM... NO HUMAN BEING COULD CATCH UP WITH THEM, BUT I'VE GOT A BETTER IDEA!
WE'LL LOCK THEM OUT! VAMPIRES MUST BE BACK IN THEIR TOMBS BEFORE DAWN OR THEY BECOME POWERLESS... WE'LL BLOCK UP THE ENTRANCE TO THE PASSAGEWAY AND THEN SEE WHAT HAPPENS!
THIS GOES ALL THE WAY UNDERGROUND TO THE HOUSE!
OUTSIDE THE PASSAGEWAY....
IF I ONLY HAD SOME NAILS AND A HAMMER!
I HAVE SOME, BROUGHT 'EM ALONG IN CASE I HAD TO BUILD A PLATFORM FOR THE SEARCHLIGHT!
WAIT TILL THEY START STRUGGLING WITH THIS!
OUTSIDE THE TOMB AFTER A LONG VIGIL...
HERE THEY COME NOW, THEY LOOK DISAPPOINTED! PROBABLY TRIED THE OTHER DOOR ALREADY!
IT'S GETTING LIGHT, THE SUN IS COMING UP!
THE PANICKY VAMPIRE TUGS DESPERATELY AT THE DOORS OF THE TOMB!
OPEN! OPEN! IN THE NAME OF THE EVIL ONE... OPEN!
LET'S GO! THIS IS OUR CHANCE!

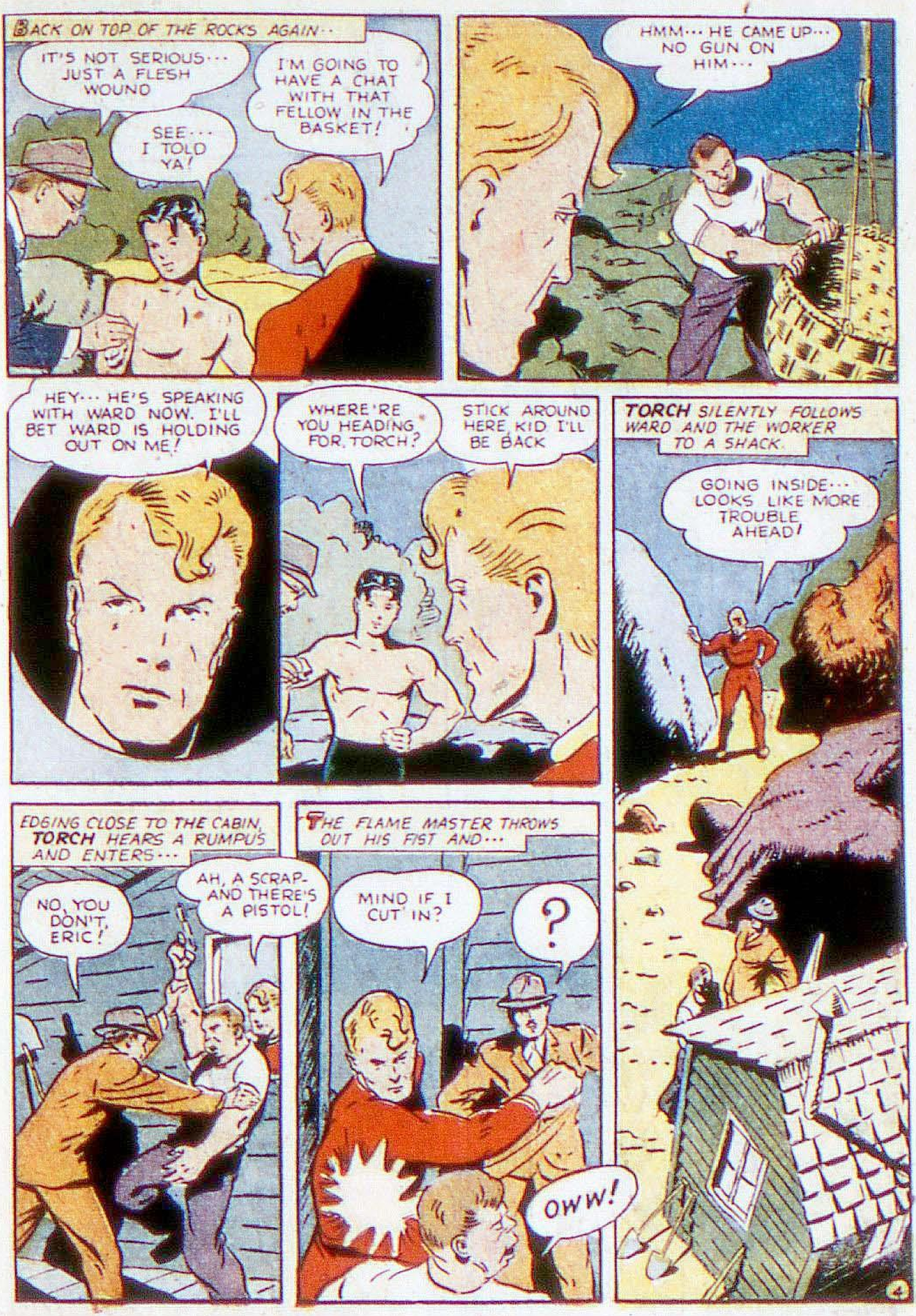

AS THE SUN RISES HIGHER...
THEY'RE NOT SO FAST NOW!
AT THE EDGE OF A CLIFF...
NOT SO PEPPY NOW, ARE YOU?
I SHALL RETURN, CAPTAIN AMERICA!
HE'S FINISHED NOW... PUTTING A STAKE THRU A VAMPIRE'S HEART IS SUPPOSED TO BE THE WAY TO GET RID OF THEM FOR GOOD... HE DID IT FOR HIMSELF!
UNDER THEIR EYES THE ANCIENT BUTLER TURNS TO DUST...
LOOK! THE OLD GEEZER! HE'S DISAPPEARING!
BUT JOE! HE'S BEGINNING TO LOOK NORMAL AGAIN!
ON THE WAY HOME...
YOU'LL ANSWER FOR THIS, ONCE WE GET BACK TO CAMP DAWSON... TURN VAMPIRE ON ME, EH? I'LL PUT YOU ON K.P. FOR A YEAR!
I DON'T REMEMBER A THING!
THANK HEAVEN JOE'S O.K. I GUESS HE JUST LIVED THAT VAMPIRE LIFE LONG ENOUGH TO REMAIN UNDER IT'S SPELL AND ONCE HE WAS IN THE GOOD OLD SUNLIGHT HE CAME AROUND ALL RIGHT!
SAY, WE OUGHT TO GET BACK TO CAMP BEFORE DUFFY DOES OR WE'LL HAVE A LOT OF EXPLAINING TO DO!
BACK IN CAMP LEHIGH AGAIN...
WE JUST MADE IT, THERE THEY ARE NOW!
WELL, YOU TWO NO GOOD BABOONS, I HAD TO DO IT MYSELF AGAIN, WHAT'S MORE, I TOOK CARE OF THOSE VAMPIRES TOO, OF COURSE CAPTAIN AMERICA HELPED SOME, AS FOR YOU TWO !@?* @!!?*

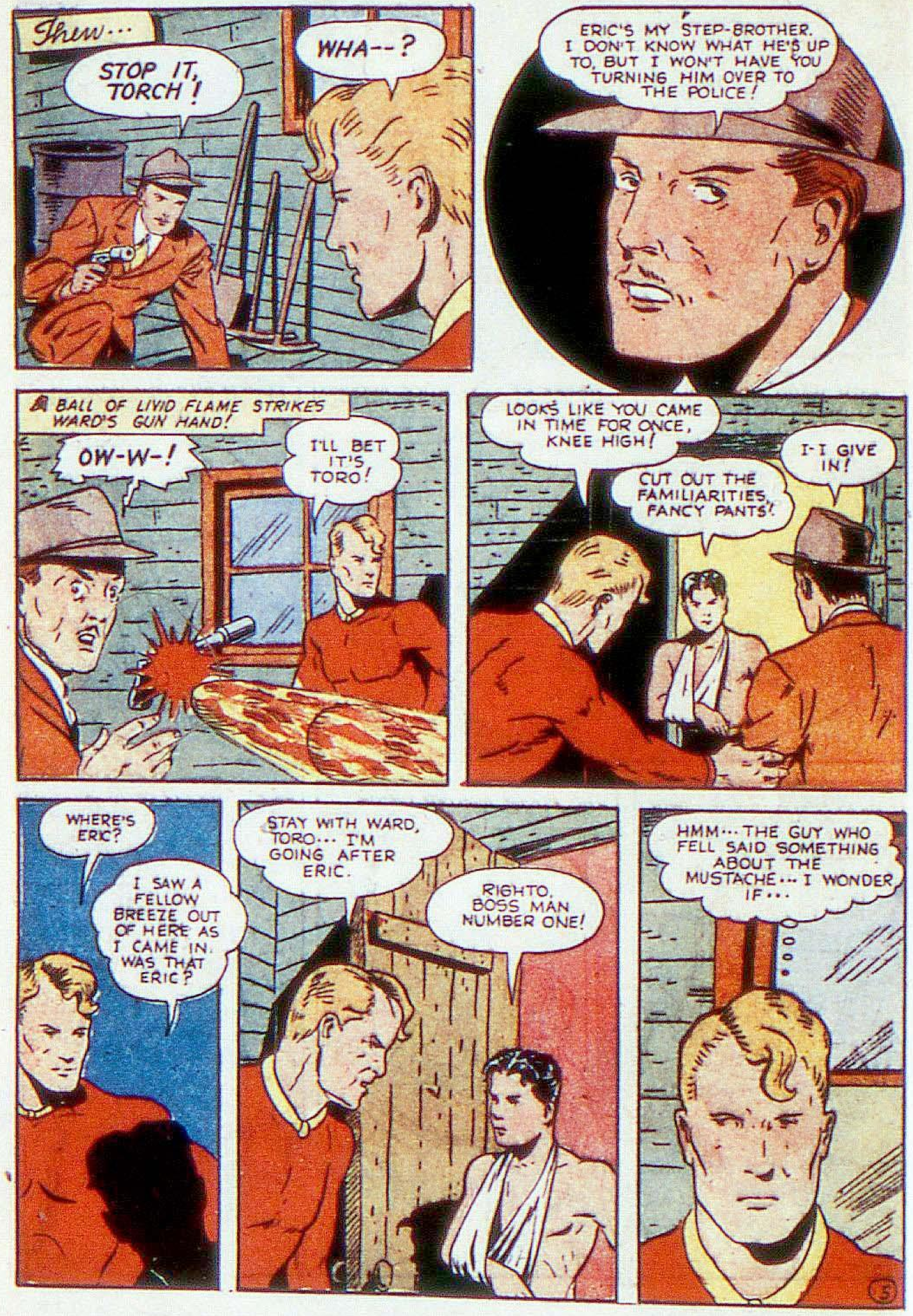

NEXT ISSUE
FROM THE AUTHOR OF "THE GIRL IN THE GOLDEN ATOM," ONE OF THE MOST SENSATIONAL SCIENCE-FICTION STORIES EVER WRITTEN --- THE EDITORS OF CAPTAIN AMERICA COMICS HAVE RECEIVED THE MOST AMAZING CAPTAIN AMERICA STORY EVER TO UNFOLD BEFORE A MORTAL'S STARTLED EYES!!
O.K., UNKNOWN WORLD, HERE I COME!
SUPER-MICROSCOPE
NEXT MONTH
Don't Miss
CAPTAIN AMERICA
TRAPPED IN THE "UNKNOWN WORLD!"

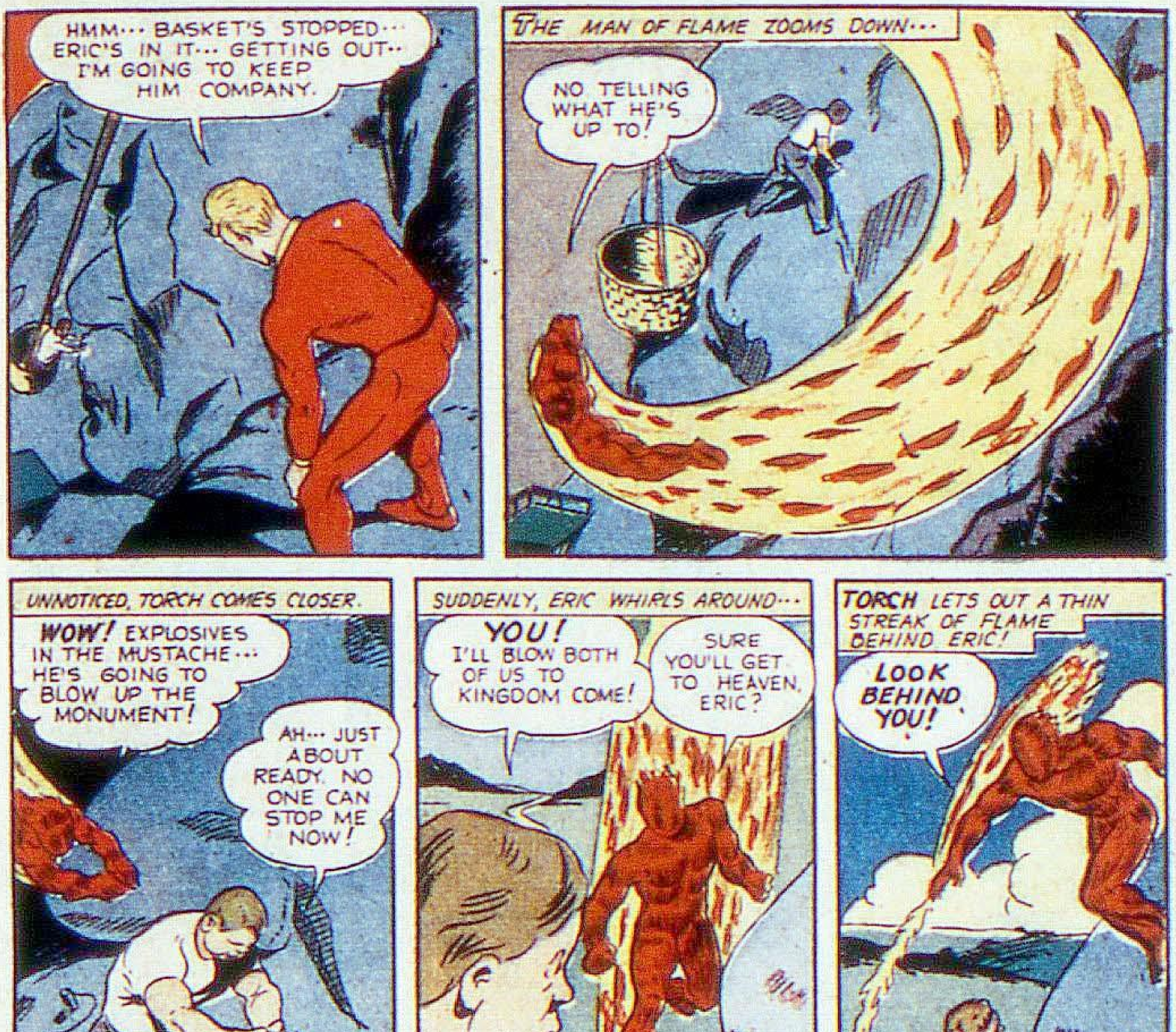

REG. U.S. PAT. OFF. 1940
COPYRIGHT 1942
HUMAN TORCH
Solves THE MONUMENT MURDER
WASHINGTON, LINCOLN, JEFFERSON AND TEDDY ROOSEVELT... INTENDED VICTIMS OF A PLOT TO DESTROY THEIR IMMORTAL IMAGES. BUT FATE STEPS IN TO APPOINT THE HUMAN TORCH AND MAKE HIM THE GUARDIAN OF THE ROCK IN THE INCIDENT OF THE MONUMENT MURDER.
TNT

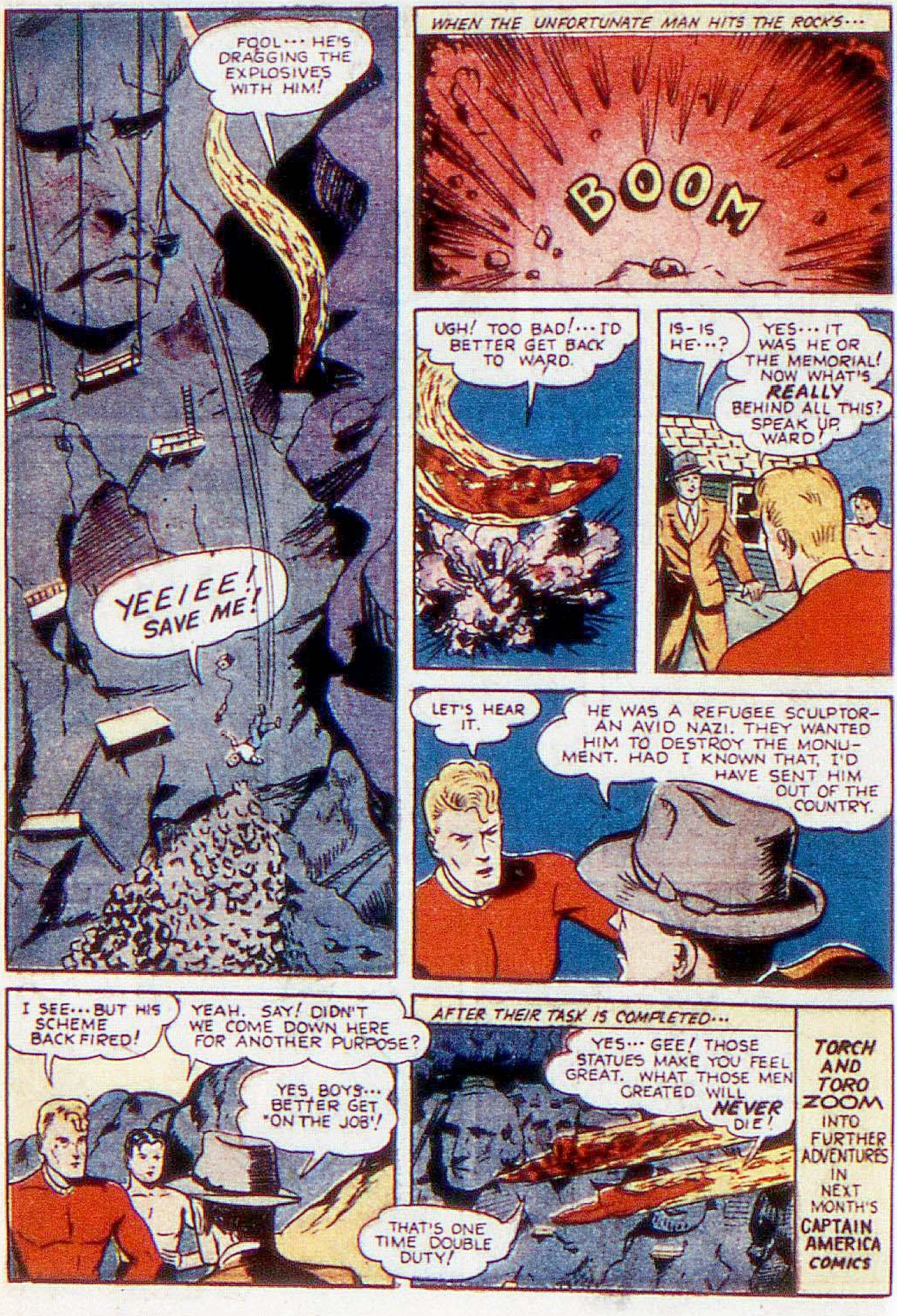

DEEP IN THE BLACK HILLS OF SOUTH DAKOTA··· THE MOUNT RUSHMORE NATIONAL MONUMENT IS NEARING COMPLETION···
WE'RE ALMOST FINISHED, MR. WARD.
YES··· GUESS I CAN LEAVE FOR NEW YORK NOW. THE HUMAN TORCH IS EXPECTING ME!
THE NEXT DAY···
HELLO, MR. WARD··· I GOT YOUR WIRE.
I CAME BY PLANE··· HAD TO MAKE TIME!
NOW WHAT'S COOKIN'?
MR. WARD EXPLAINS HIS VISIT···
YOU SEE, TORCH, THE STATUES ARE ALMOST FINISHED AND WE NEED YOU TO CLEAN THE BASE OF SCRAP ROCK··· IT WOULD BE A PATRIOTIC MEASURE TO CONSERVE EXPLOSIVES. WILL YOU DO IT?
YOU BET I WILL!
COME, TORO··· WE'RE GOING TO SOUTH DAKOTA.
WHOOPEE! WE'RE GOING TO BE SCULPTORS!
WITH YOU TWO THERE, WE'LL BE FINISHED IN NO TIME AT ALL!
MUCH LATER···
A WONDERFUL TRIBUTE TO OUR GREATEST MEN.
THEY WERE STARTED FIFTEEN YEARS AGO AND WILL LAST FOR ETERNITY.
GEE! THEY'RE IMMENSE!
SAY! COULD I TAKE A RIDE IN ONE OF THOSE?
I DON'T SEE WHY···
SUDDENLY···
AIEEEEEEEE···
3

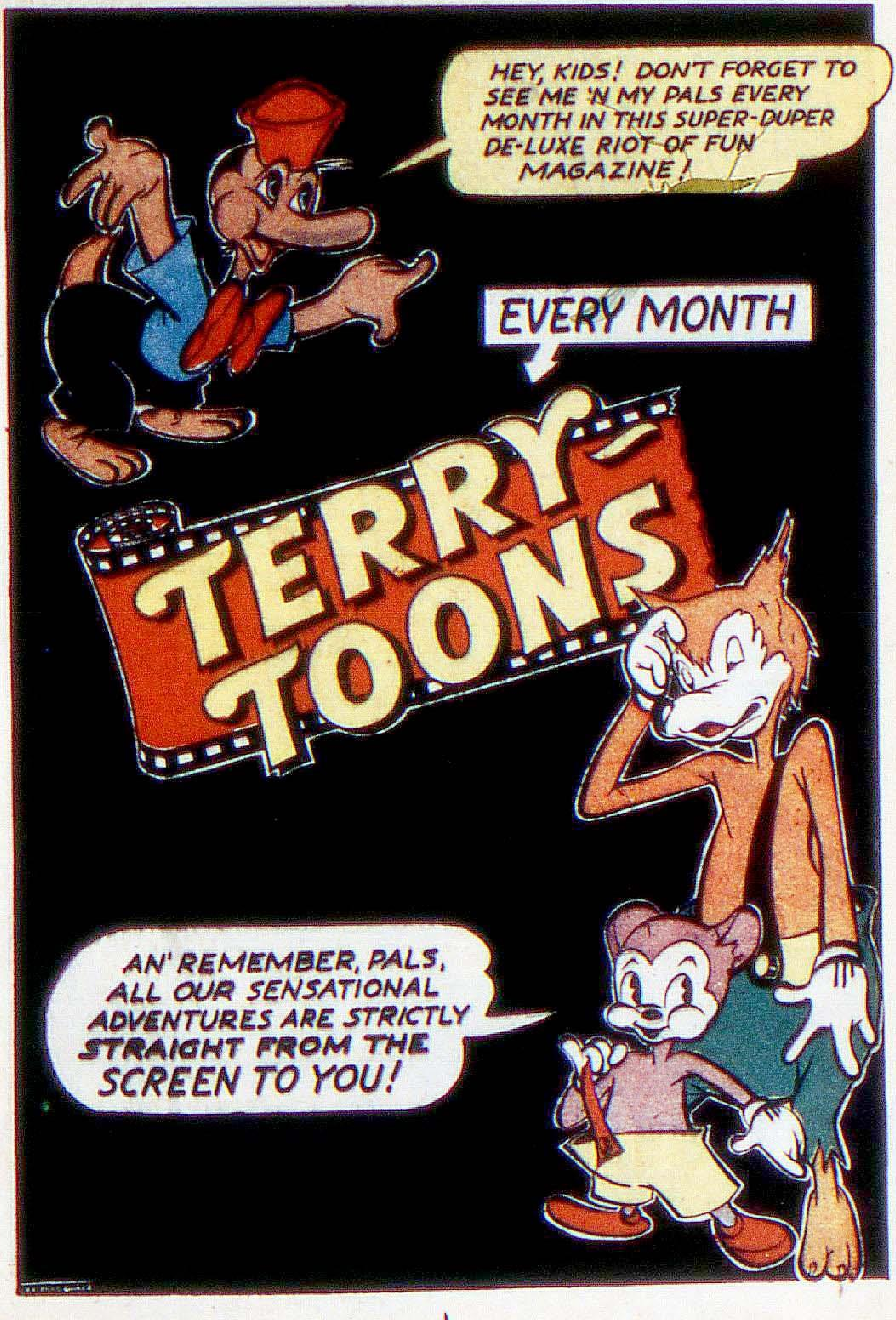

THE TWO FLAMING HUMANS SWEEP DOWNWARD···
TOO LATE!
HE'S DONE FOR!
CRASH
FLAMES OUT, TORCH AND HIS SIDE-KICK, TORO, APPROACH THE DYING WORKER.
HE'S STILL ALIVE!
SEEMS LIKE HE WANTS TO SAY SOMETHING.
TH- THE MUSTACHE- LOOK IN THE MUSTACHE··· A-AH-AH-H!
POOR FELLOW··· HE'S DEAD!
THEN··· MORE TROUBLE!
S'MATTER, KID?
YEEOW! I'M SHOT!
QUICK! SOME ONE'S GUNNING AT US WITH A SILENCER! FROM THE WAY THOSE BULLETS RICCOCHETTE OFF THE GROUND, I'D SAY THE SHOTS WERE COMING FROM THAT BASKET HANGING OVER ROOSEVELT'S STATUE··· HURT MUCH?
NOPE ··· JUST NICKED ME. SAY, HERE COMES MR. WARD!
ZING
ZING
WHAT HAPPENED?
SOMEONE'S SHOOTING AT US··· TORO'S HIT.
OH··· THERE'S A COMPANY DOCTOR ON TOP. COME ON!
AW··· I'M ALL RIGHT!

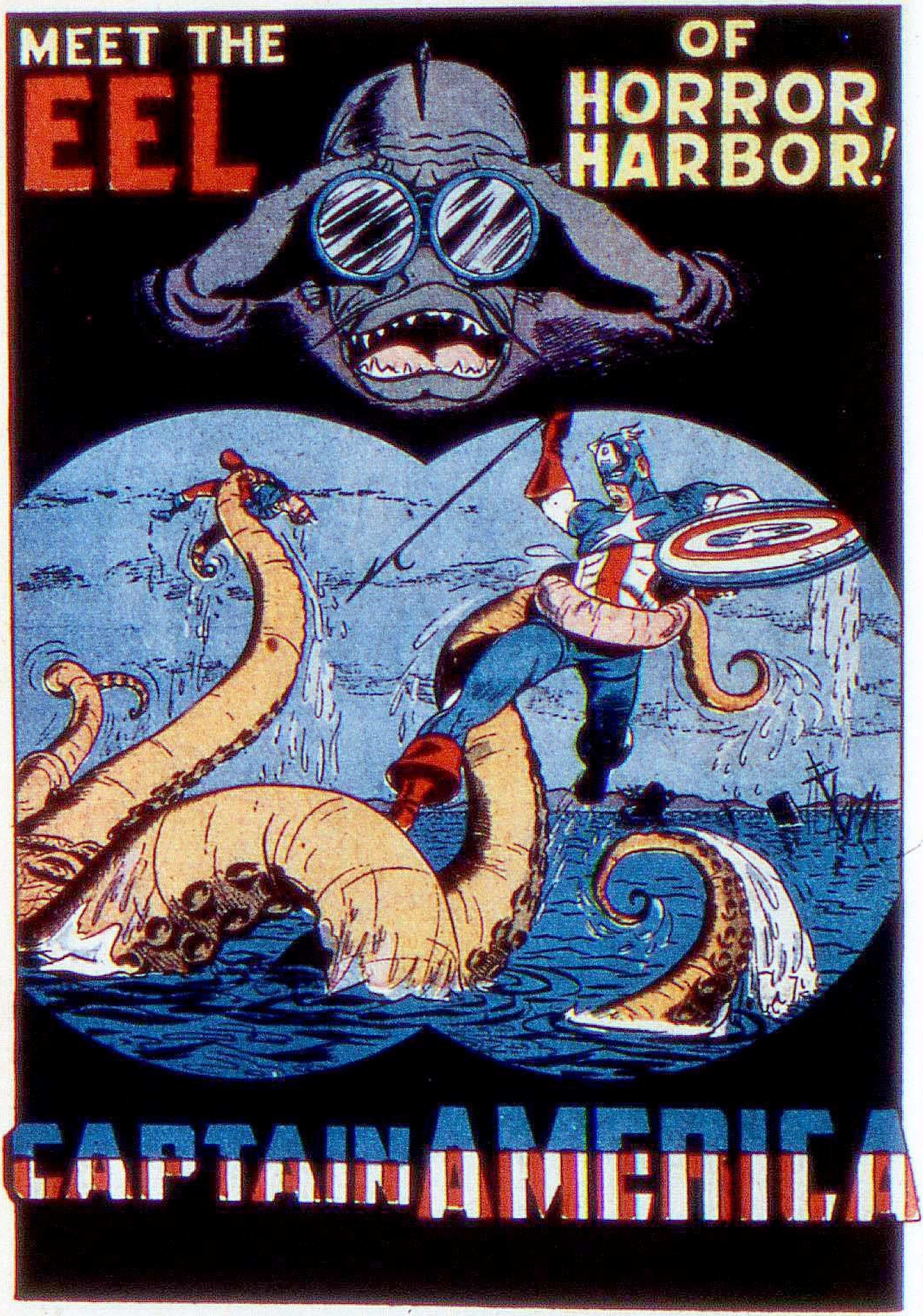

BACK ON TOP OF THE ROCKS AGAIN···
IT'S NOT SERIOUS··· JUST A FLESH WOUND
SEE··· I TOLD YA!
I'M GOING TO HAVE A CHAT WITH THAT FELLOW IN THE BASKET!
HMM··· HE CAME UP··· NO GUN ON HIM···
HEY··· HE'S SPEAKING WITH WARD NOW. I'LL BET WARD IS HOLDING OUT ON ME!
WHERE'RE YOU HEADING FOR, TORCH?
STICK AROUND HERE, KID I'LL BE BACK
TORCH SILENTLY FOLLOWS WARD AND THE WORKER TO A SHACK.
GOING INSIDE··· LOOKS LIKE MORE TROUBLE AHEAD!
EDGING CLOSE TO THE CABIN, TORCH HEARS A RUMPUS AND ENTERS···
NO, YOU DON'T, ERIC!
AH, A SCRAP-AND THERE'S A PISTOL!
THE FLAME MASTER THROWS OUT HIS FIST AND···
MIND IF I CUT IN?
?
OWW!

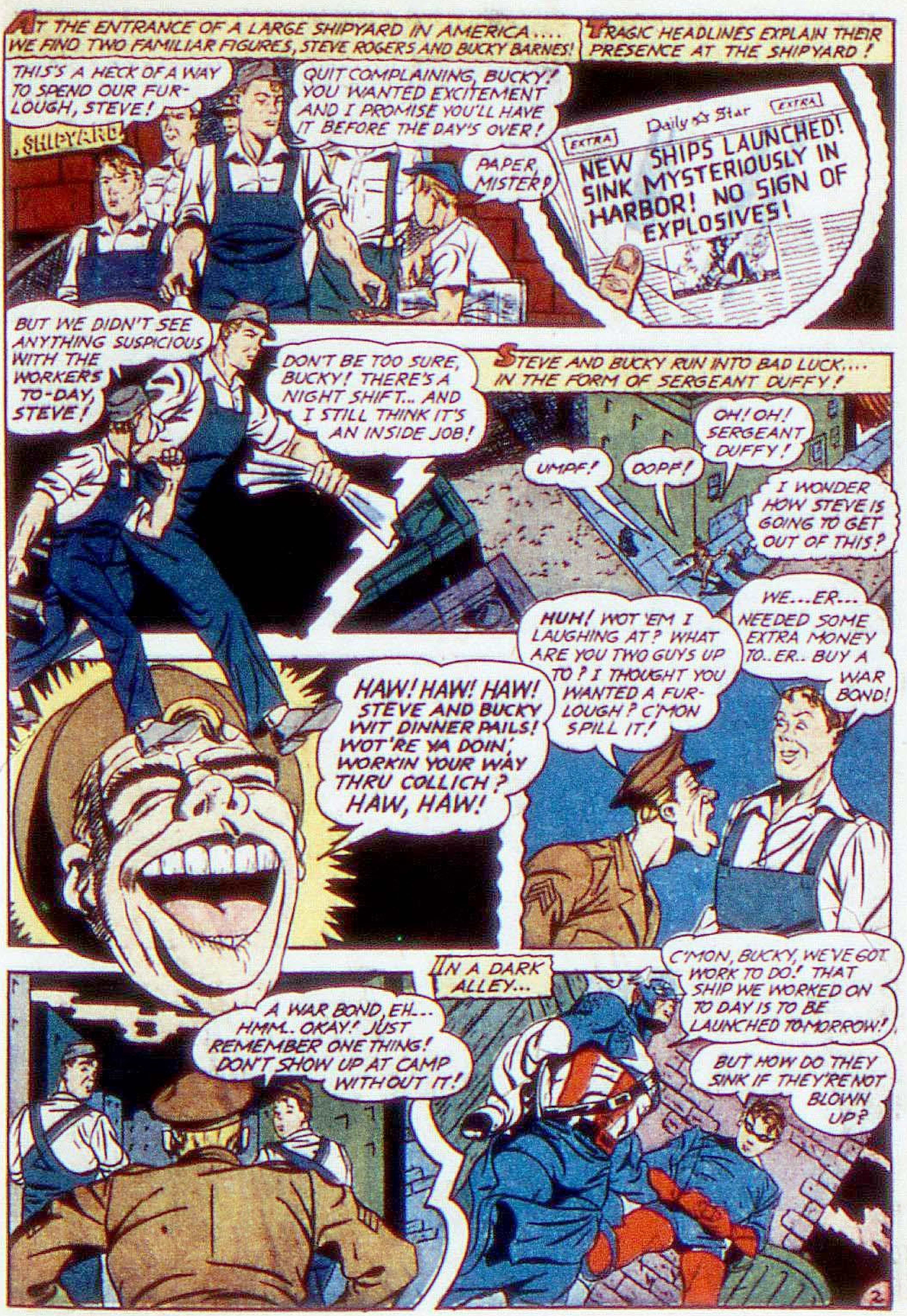

Then...
STOP IT, TORCH!
WHA--?
ERIC'S MY STEP-BROTHER. I DON'T KNOW WHAT HE'S UP TO, BUT I WON'T HAVE YOU TURNING HIM OVER TO THE POLICE!
A BALL OF LIVID FLAME STRIKES WARD'S GUN HAND!
OW-W-!
I'LL BET IT'S TORO!
LOOKS LIKE YOU CAME IN TIME FOR ONCE, KNEE HIGH!
CUT OUT THE FAMILIARITIES, FANCY PANTS!
I-I GIVE IN!
WHERE'S ERIC?
I SAW A FELLOW BREEZE OUT OF HERE AS I CAME IN. WAS THAT ERIC?
STAY WITH WARD, TORO... I'M GOING AFTER ERIC.
RIGHTO, BOSS MAN NUMBER ONE!
HMM... THE GUY WHO FELL SAID SOMETHING ABOUT THE MUSTACHE... I WONDER IF...
5

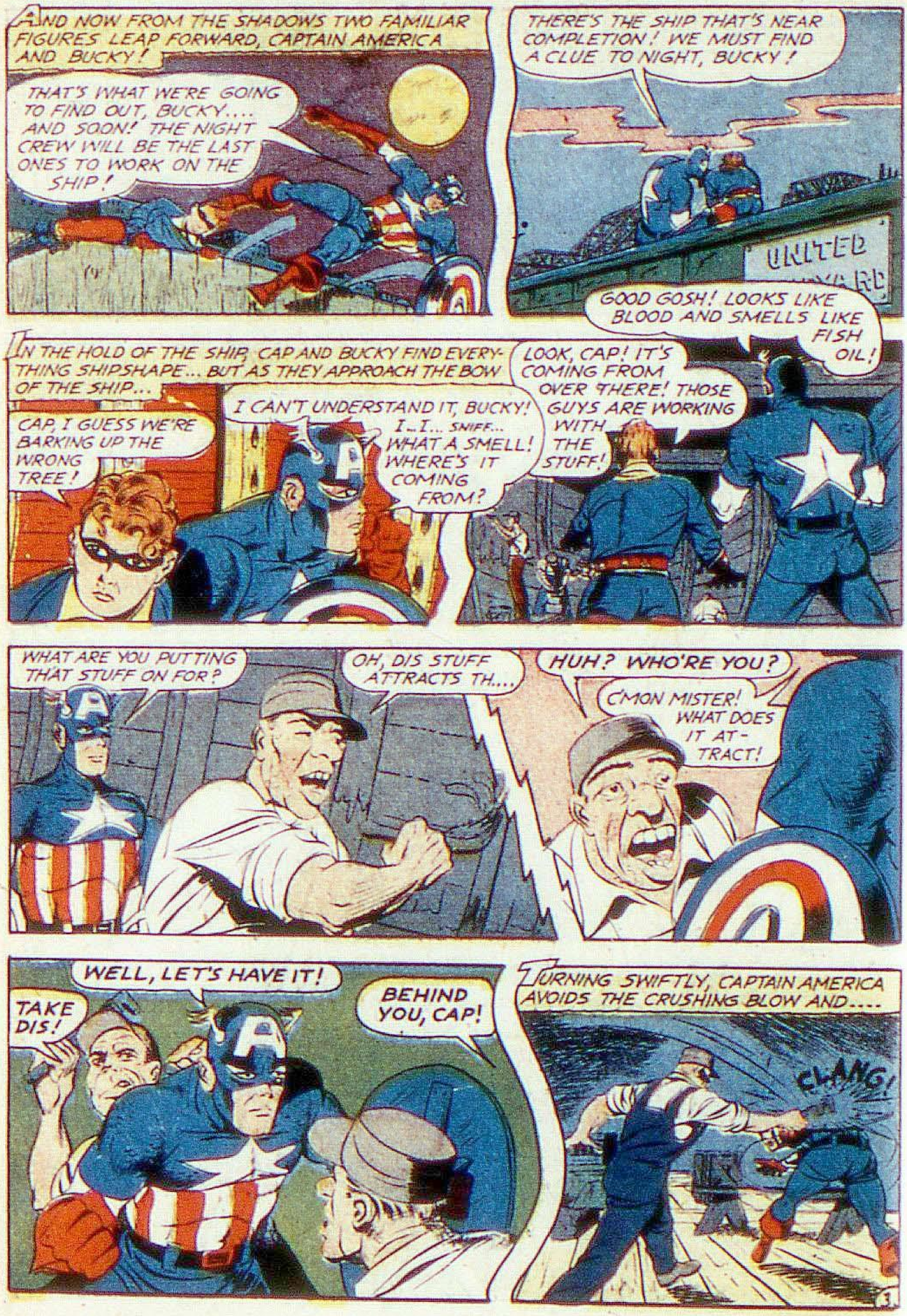

HMM··· BASKET'S STOPPED··· ERIC'S IN IT··· GETTING OUT·· I'M GOING TO KEEP HIM COMPANY.
THE MAN OF FLAME ZOOMS DOWN···
NO TELLING WHAT HE'S UP TO!
UNNOTICED, TORCH COMES CLOSER.
WOW! EXPLOSIVES IN THE MUSTACHE··· HE'S GOING TO BLOW UP THE MONUMENT!
AH··· JUST ABOUT READY. NO ONE CAN STOP ME NOW!
SUDDENLY, ERIC WHIRLS AROUND···
YOU! I'LL BLOW BOTH OF US TO KINGDOM COME!
SURE YOU'LL GET TO HEAVEN, ERIC?
TORCH LETS OUT A THIN STREAK OF FLAME BEHIND ERIC!
LOOK BEHIND YOU!
ERIC LOOKS···
TAKE THAT FLAME AWAY··· YOU'RE MAD!
WHY··· I THOUGHT YOU WANTED TO BLOW US BOTH UP?
ERIC'S START THROWS HIM OFF BALANCE.
YEOW! I'M SLIPPING! HELP!
6

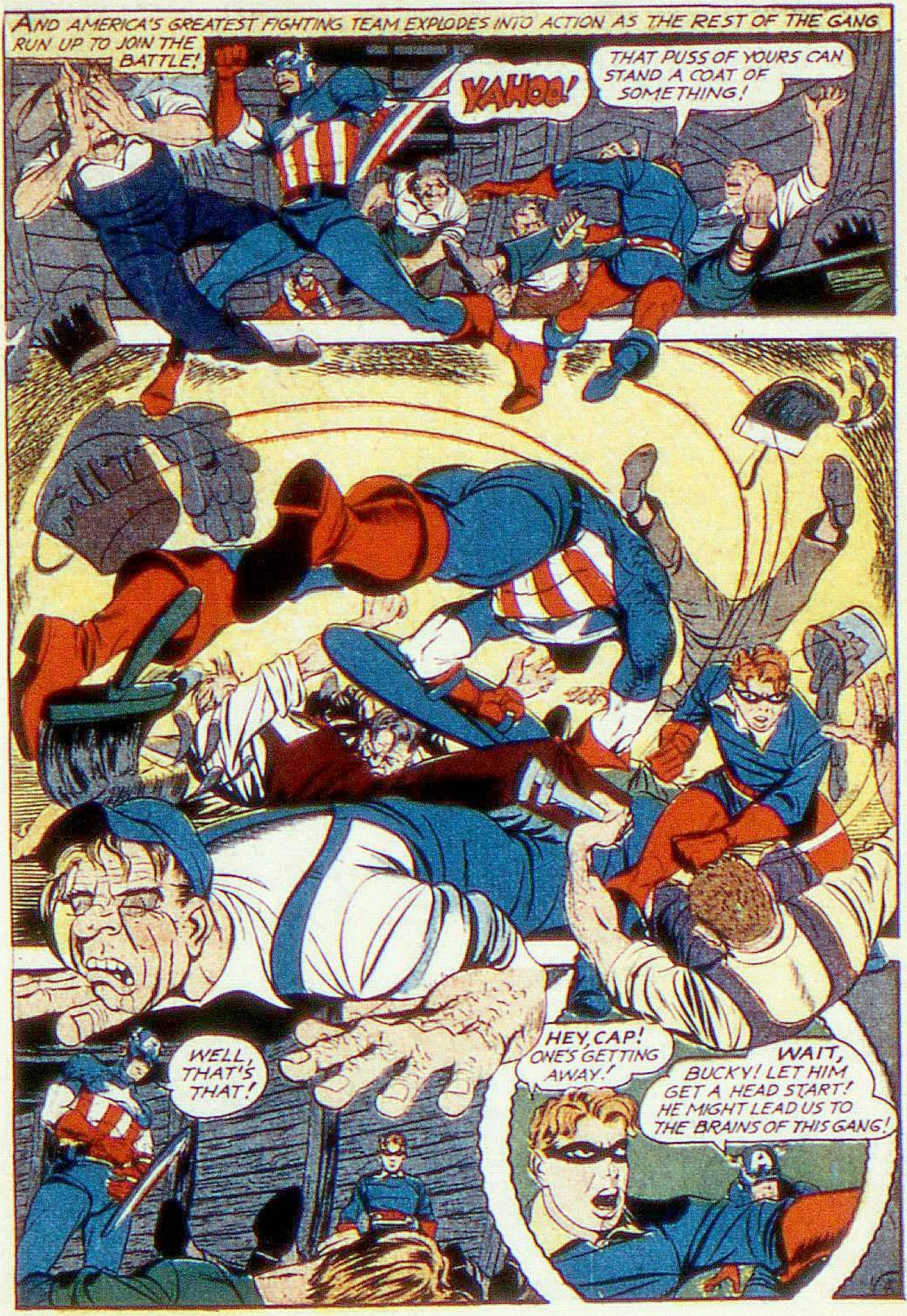

FOOL··· HE'S DRAGGING THE EXPLOSIVES WITH HIM!
YEEIEE! SAVE ME!
WHEN THE UNFORTUNATE MAN HITS THE ROCKS···
BOOM
UGH! TOO BAD!··· I'D BETTER GET BACK TO WARD.
IS- IS HE···?
YES··· IT WAS HE OR THE MEMORIAL! NOW WHAT'S REALLY BEHIND ALL THIS? SPEAK UP, WARD!
LET'S HEAR IT.
HE WAS A REFUGEE SCULPTOR- AN AVID NAZI. THEY WANTED HIM TO DESTROY THE MONUMENT. HAD I KNOWN THAT, I'D HAVE SENT HIM OUT OF THE COUNTRY.
I SEE··· BUT HIS SCHEME BACKFIRED!
YEAH. SAY! DIDN'T WE COME DOWN HERE FOR ANOTHER PURPOSE?
YES BOYS··· BETTER GET "ON THE JOB"!
THAT'S ONE TIME DOUBLE DUTY!
AFTER THEIR TASK IS COMPLETED···
YES··· GEE! THOSE STATUES MAKE YOU FEEL GREAT. WHAT THOSE MEN CREATED WILL NEVER DIE!
TORCH AND TORO ZOOM INTO FURTHER ADVENTURES IN NEXT MONTH'S CAPTAIN AMERICA COMICS

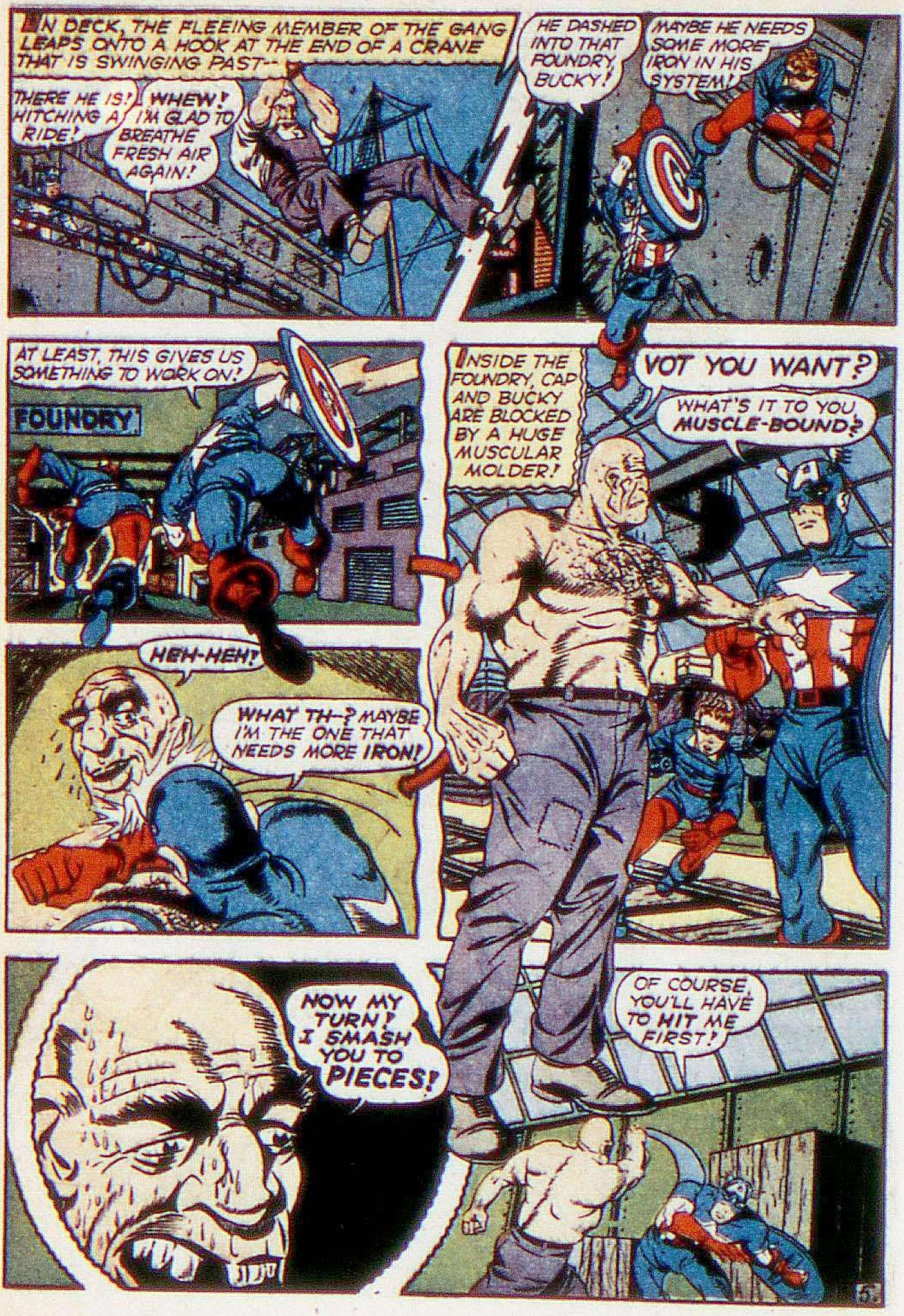

HEY, KIDS! DON'T FORGET TO SEE ME 'N MY PALS EVERY MONTH IN THIS SUPER-DUPER DE-LUXE RIOT OF FUN MAGAZINE!
EVERY MONTH
TERRY-TOONS
AN' REMEMBER, PALS, ALL OUR SENSATIONAL ADVENTURES ARE STRICTLY STRAIGHT FROM THE SCREEN TO YOU!

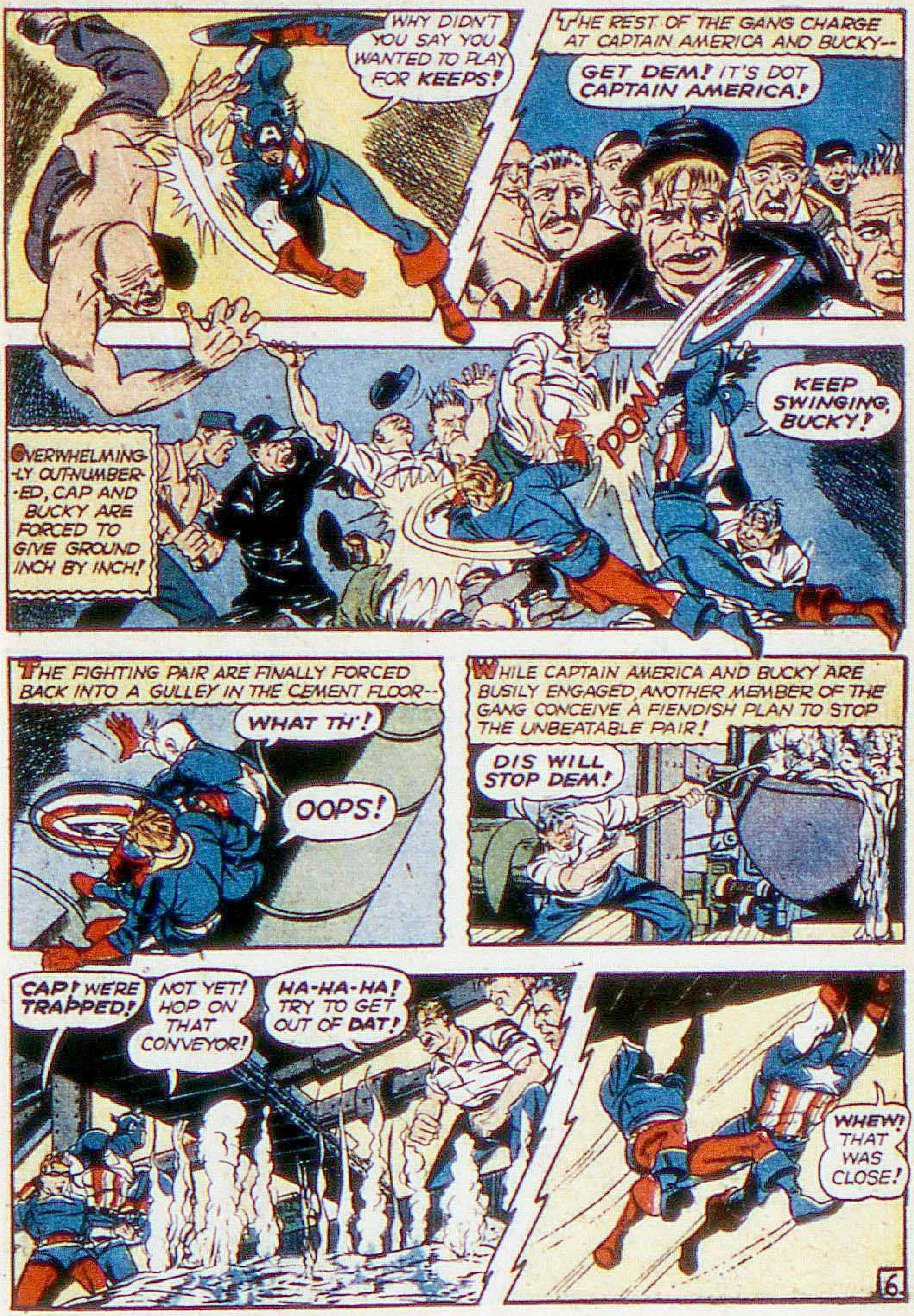

MEET THE EEL OF HORROR HARBOR!
CAPTAIN AMERICA

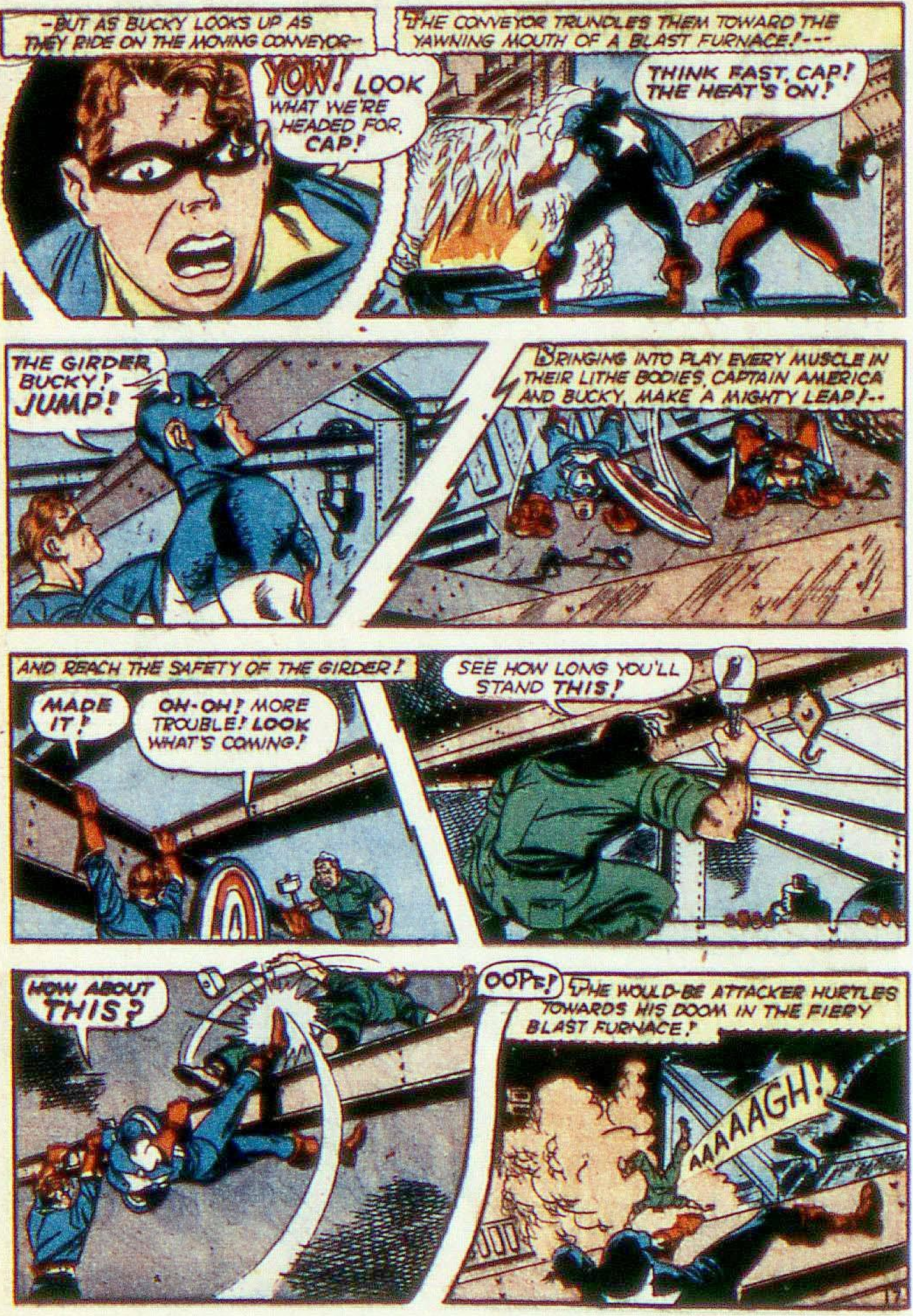

AT THE ENTRANCE OF A LARGE SHIPYARD IN AMERICA.... WE FIND TWO FAMILIAR FIGURES, STEVE ROGERS AND BUCKY BARNES!
THIS'S A HECK OF A WAY TO SPEND OUR FURLOUGH, STEVE!
QUIT COMPLAINING, BUCKY! YOU WANTED EXCITEMENT AND I PROMISE YOU'LL HAVE IT BEFORE THE DAY'S OVER!
SHIPYARD
PAPER, MISTER?
TRAGIC HEADLINES EXPLAIN THEIR PRESENCE AT THE SHIPYARD!
Daily ☆ Star
EXTRA
EXTRA
NEW SHIPS LAUNCHED! SINK MYSTERIOUSLY IN HARBOR! NO SIGN OF EXPLOSIVES!
BUT WE DIDN'T SEE ANYTHING SUSPICIOUS WITH THE WORKERS TO-DAY, STEVE!
DON'T BE TOO SURE, BUCKY! THERE'S A NIGHT SHIFT... AND I STILL THINK IT'S AN INSIDE JOB!
STEVE AND BUCKY RUN INTO BAD LUCK.... IN THE FORM OF SERGEANT DUFFY!
UMPF!
OOPF!
OH! OH! SERGEANT DUFFY!
I WONDER HOW STEVE IS GOING TO GET OUT OF THIS?
HAW! HAW! HAW! STEVE AND BUCKY WIT DINNER PAILS! WOT'RE YA DOIN', WORKIN YOUR WAY THRU COLLICH? HAW, HAW!
HUH! WOT 'EM I LAUGHING AT? WHAT ARE YOU TWO GUYS UP TO? I THOUGHT YOU WANTED A FURLOUGH? C'MON SPILL IT!
WE...ER... NEEDED SOME EXTRA MONEY TO..ER.. BUY A WAR BOND!
A WAR BOND, EH... HMM.. OKAY! JUST REMEMBER ONE THING! DON'T SHOW UP AT CAMP WITHOUT IT!
IN A DARK ALLEY...
C'MON, BUCKY, WE'VE GOT WORK TO DO! THAT SHIP WE WORKED ON TO DAY IS TO BE LAUNCHED TOMORROW!
BUT HOW DO THEY SINK IF THEY'RE NOT BLOWN UP?
2

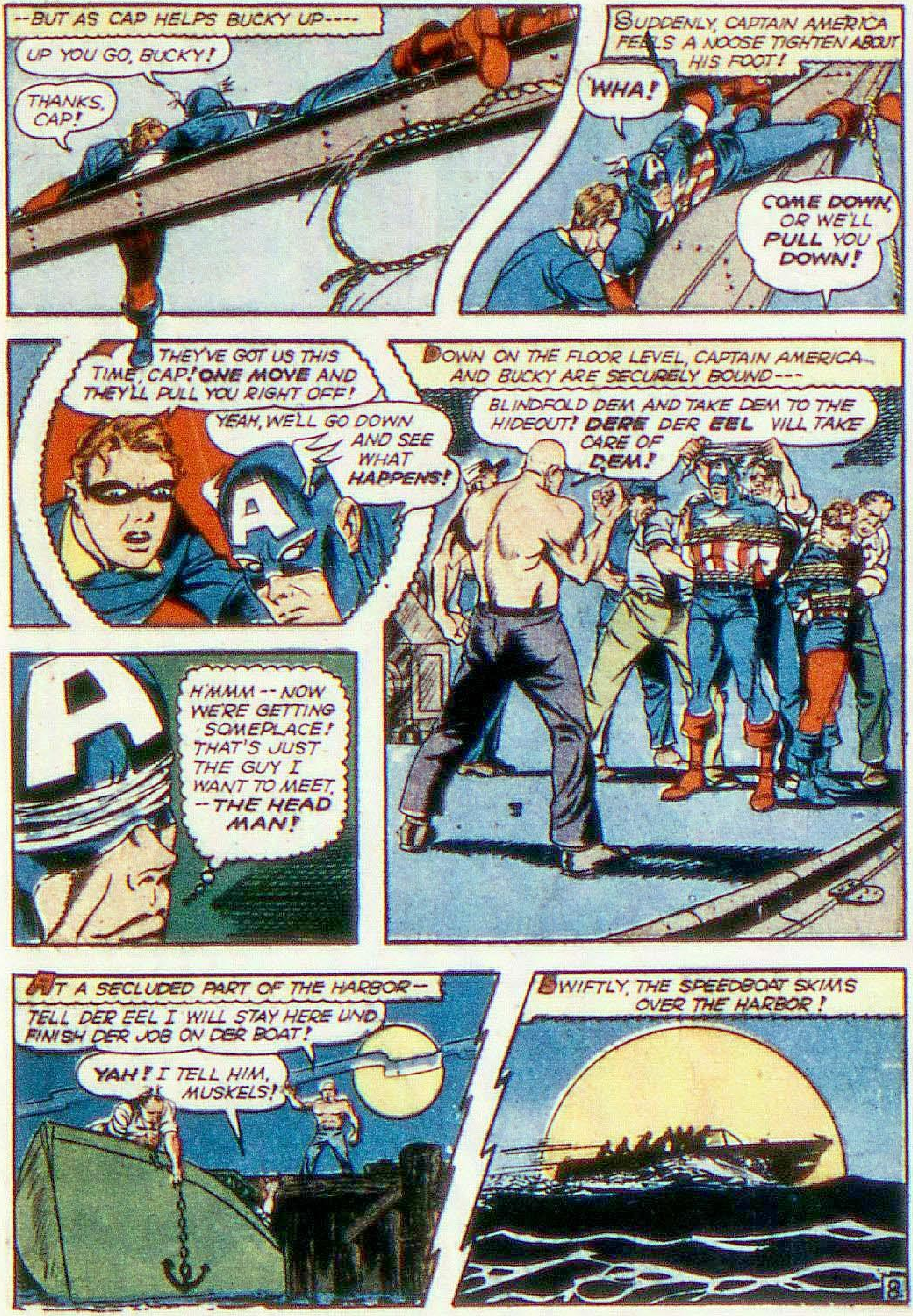

AND NOW FROM THE SHADOWS TWO FAMILIAR FIGURES LEAP FORWARD, CAPTAIN AMERICA AND BUCKY!
THAT'S WHAT WE'RE GOING TO FIND OUT, BUCKY.... AND SOON! THE NIGHT CREW WILL BE THE LAST ONES TO WORK ON THE SHIP!
THERE'S THE SHIP THAT'S NEAR COMPLETION! WE MUST FIND A CLUE TO NIGHT, BUCKY!
UNITED
GOOD GOSH! LOOKS LIKE BLOOD AND SMELLS LIKE FISH OIL!
IN THE HOLD OF THE SHIP, CAP AND BUCKY FIND EVERYTHING SHIPSHAPE... BUT AS THEY APPROACH THE BOW OF THE SHIP...
CAP, I GUESS WE'RE BARKING UP THE WRONG TREE!
I CAN'T UNDERSTAND IT, BUCKY! I..I... SNIFF... WHAT A SMELL! WHERE'S IT COMING FROM?
LOOK, CAP! IT'S COMING FROM OVER THERE! THOSE GUYS ARE WORKING WITH THE STUFF!
WHAT ARE YOU PUTTING THAT STUFF ON FOR?
OH, DIS STUFF ATTRACTS TH...
HUH? WHO'RE YOU?
C'MON MISTER! WHAT DOES IT ATTRACT!
WELL, LET'S HAVE IT!
TAKE DIS!
BEHIND YOU, CAP!
TURNING SWIFTLY, CAPTAIN AMERICA AVOIDS THE CRUSHING BLOW AND....
CLANG!

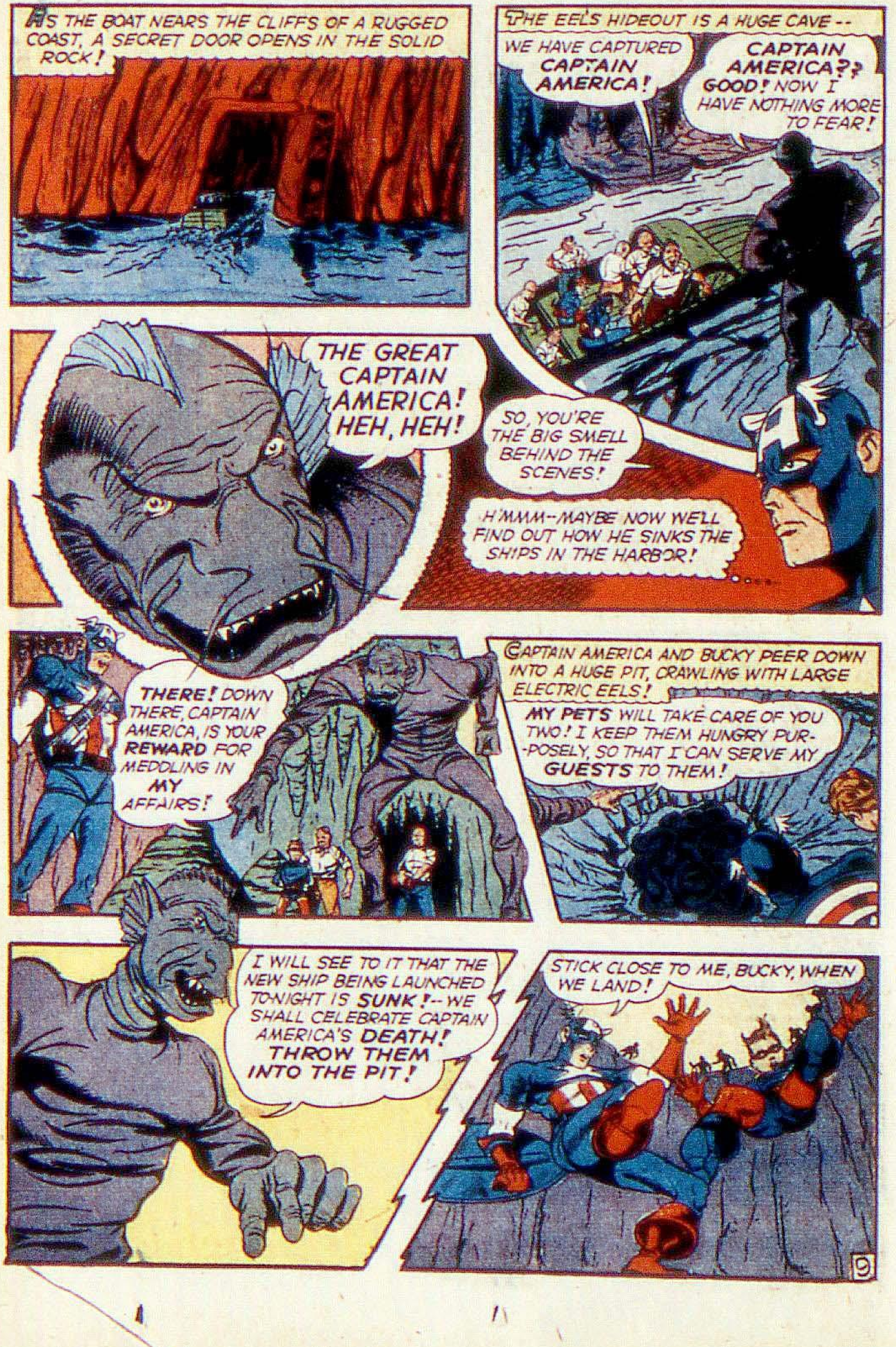

AND AMERICA'S GREATEST FIGHTING TEAM EXPLODES INTO ACTION AS THE REST OF THE GANG RUN UP TO JOIN THE BATTLE!
YAHOO!
THAT PUSS OF YOURS CAN STAND A COAT OF SOMETHING!
WELL, THAT'S THAT!
HEY, CAP! ONE'S GETTING AWAY!
WAIT, BUCKY! LET HIM GET A HEAD START! HE MIGHT LEAD US TO THE BRAINS OF THIS GANG!

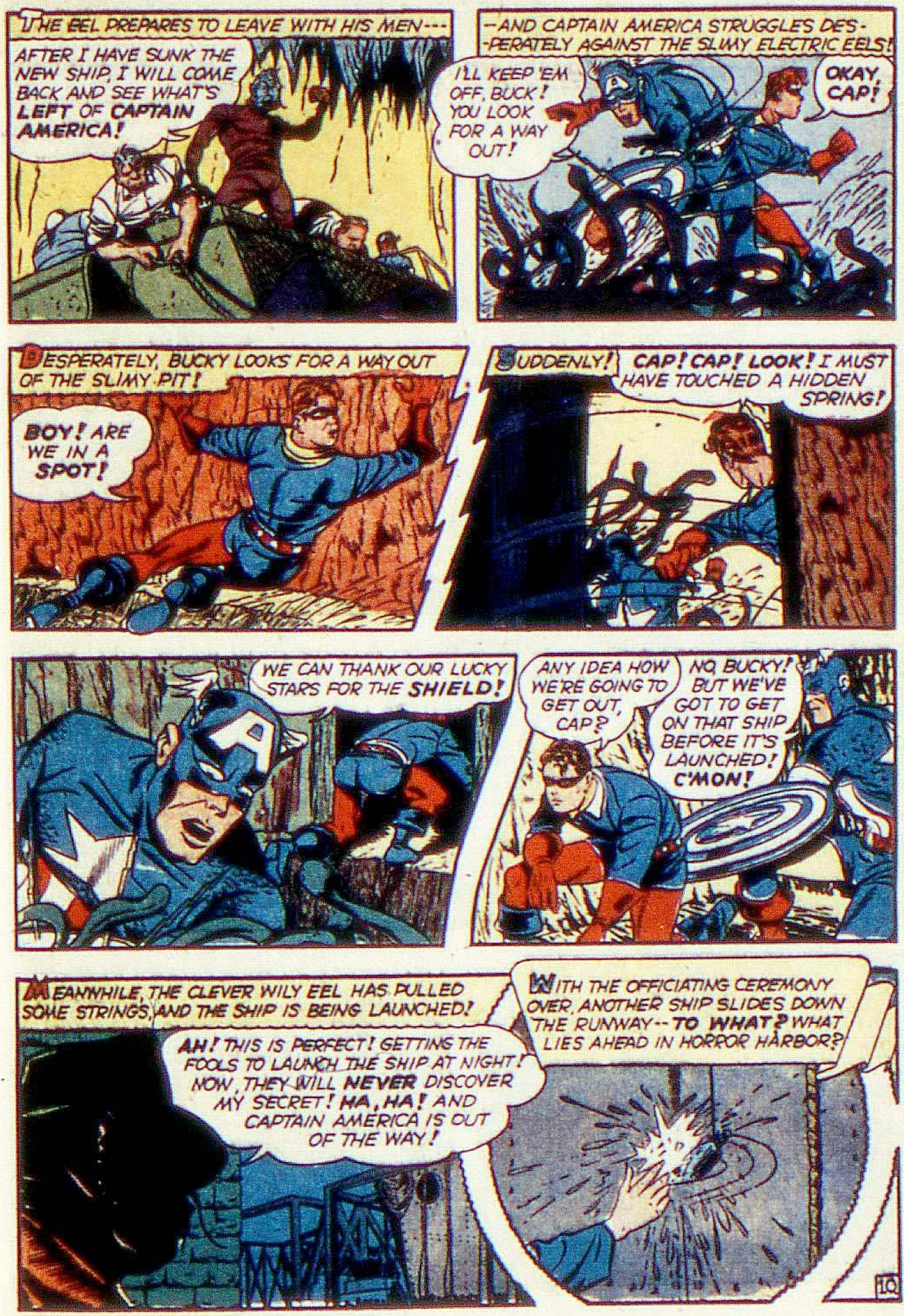

ON DECK, THE FLEEING MEMBER OF THE GANG LEAPS ONTO A HOOK AT THE END OF A CRANE THAT IS SWINGING PAST--
THERE HE IS! HITCHING A RIDE!
WHEW! I'M GLAD TO BREATHE FRESH AIR AGAIN!
HE DASHED INTO THAT FOUNDRY, BUCKY!
MAYBE HE NEEDS SOME MORE IRON IN HIS SYSTEM!
AT LEAST, THIS GIVES US SOMETHING TO WORK ON!
FOUNDRY
INSIDE THE FOUNDRY, CAP AND BUCKY ARE BLOCKED BY A HUGE MUSCULAR MOLDER!
VOT YOU WANT?
WHAT'S IT TO YOU MUSCLE-BOUND?
HEH-HEH!
WHAT TH--? MAYBE I'M THE ONE THAT NEEDS MORE IRON!
NOW MY TURN! I SMASH YOU TO PIECES!
OF COURSE, YOU'LL HAVE TO HIT ME FIRST!
5

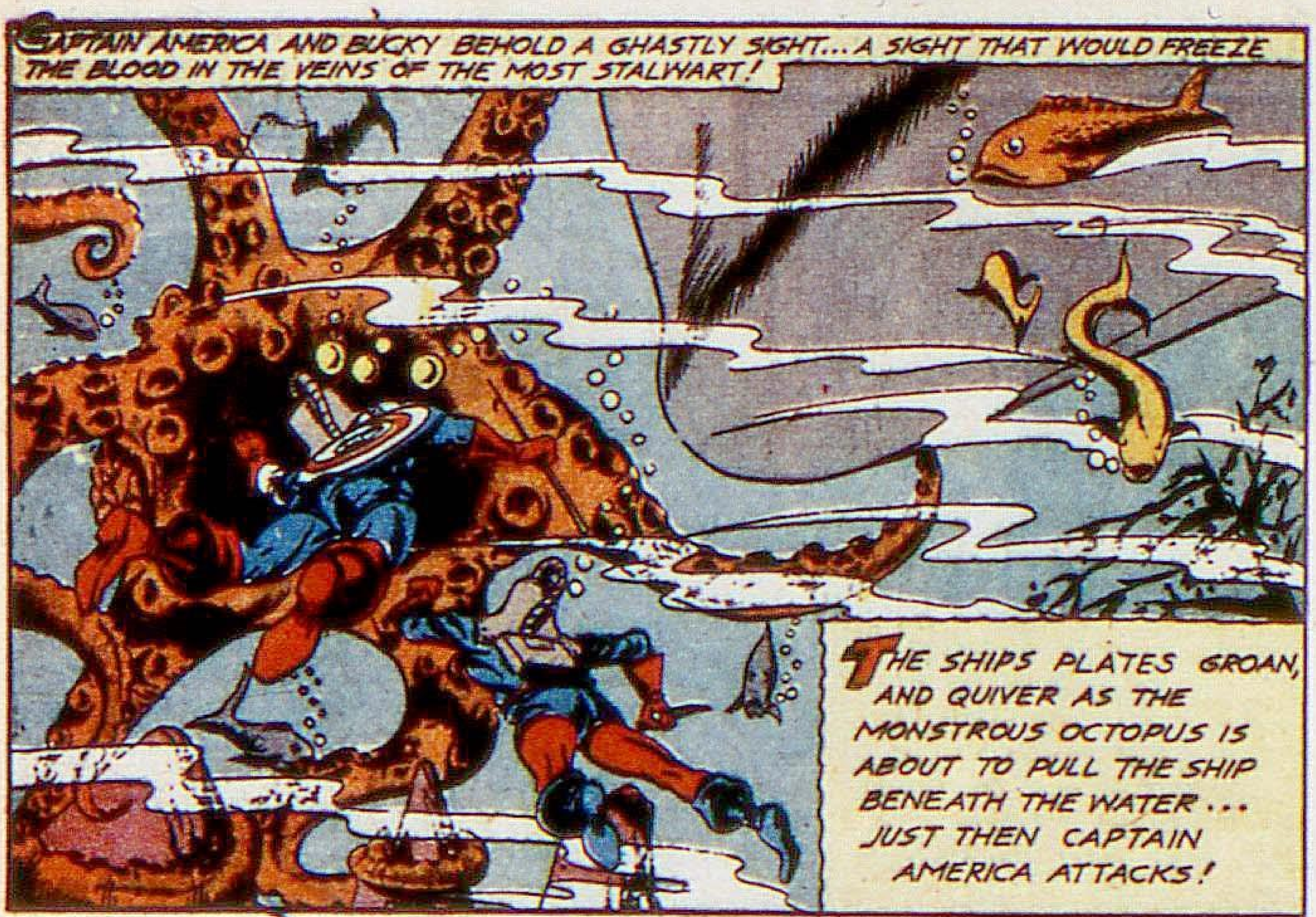

WHY DIDN'T YOU SAY YOU WANTED TO PLAY FOR KEEPS!
THE REST OF THE GANG CHARGE AT CAPTAIN AMERICA AND BUCKY--
GET DEM! IT'S DOT CAPTAIN AMERICA!
OVERWHELMINGLY OUTNUMBERED, CAP AND BUCKY ARE FORCED TO GIVE GROUND INCH BY INCH!
POW
KEEP SWINGING, BUCKY!
THE FIGHTING PAIR ARE FINALLY FORCED BACK INTO A GULLEY IN THE CEMENT FLOOR--
WHAT TH'!
OOPS!
WHILE CAPTAIN AMERICA AND BUCKY ARE BUSILY ENGAGED, ANOTHER MEMBER OF THE GANG CONCEIVE A FIENDISH PLAN TO STOP THE UNBEATABLE PAIR!
DIS WILL STOP DEM!
CAP! WE'RE TRAPPED!
NOT YET! HOP ON THAT CONVEYOR!
HA-HA-HA! TRY TO GET OUT OF DAT!
WHEW! THAT WAS CLOSE!
6

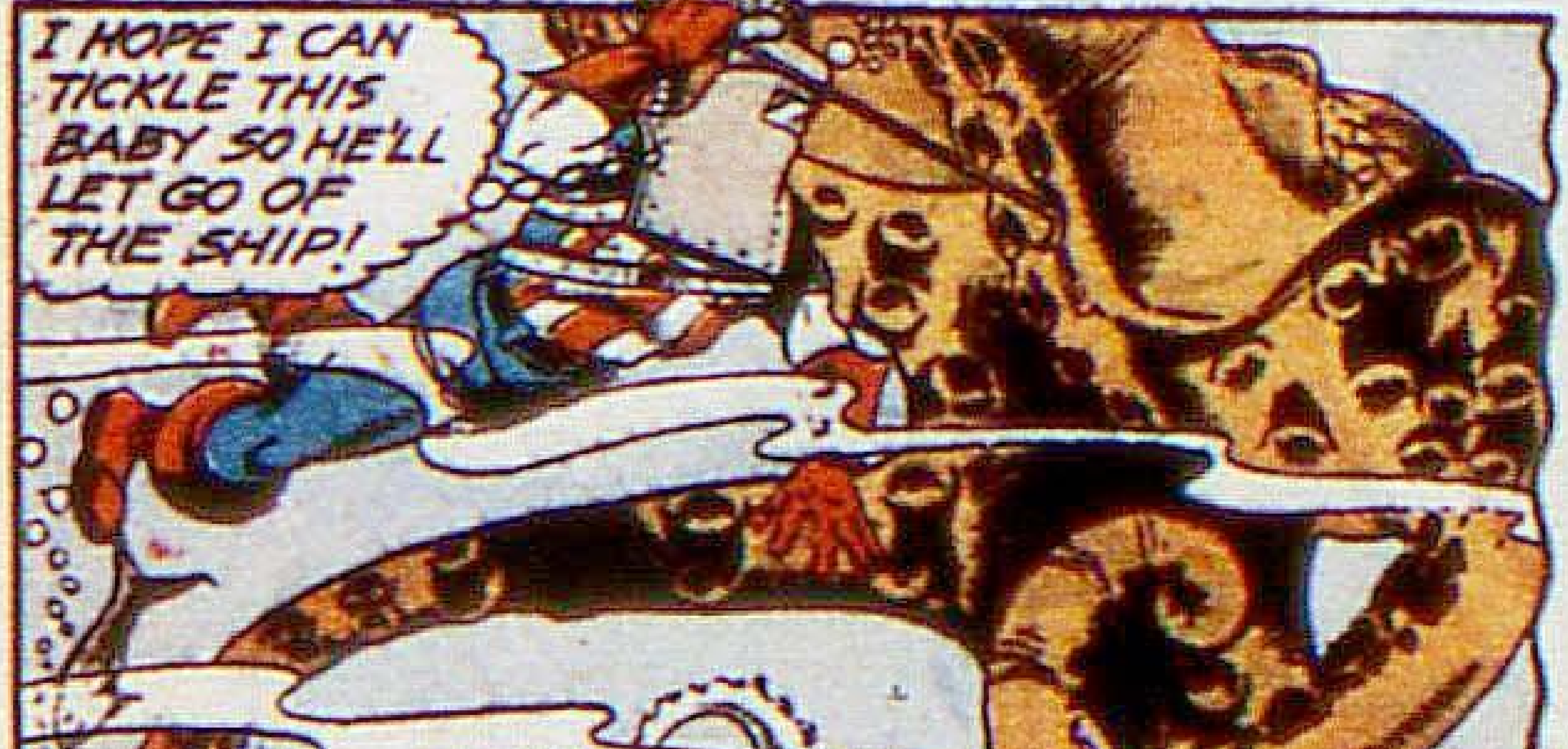

—BUT AS BUCKY LOOKS UP AS THEY RIDE ON THE MOVING CONVEYOR—
YOW! LOOK WHAT WE'RE HEADED FOR, CAP!
THE CONVEYOR TRUNDLES THEM TOWARD THE YAWNING MOUTH OF A BLAST FURNACE!---
THINK FAST, CAP! THE HEAT'S ON!
THE GIRDER, BUCKY! JUMP!
BRINGING INTO PLAY EVERY MUSCLE IN THEIR LITHE BODIES, CAPTAIN AMERICA AND BUCKY, MAKE A MIGHTY LEAP!--
AND REACH THE SAFETY OF THE GIRDER!
MADE IT!
OH-OH! MORE TROUBLE! LOOK WHAT'S COMING!
SEE HOW LONG YOU'LL STAND THIS!
HOW ABOUT THIS?
OOPS!
THE WOULD-BE ATTACKER HURTLES TOWARDS HIS DOOM IN THE FIERY BLAST FURNACE!
AAAAAGH!

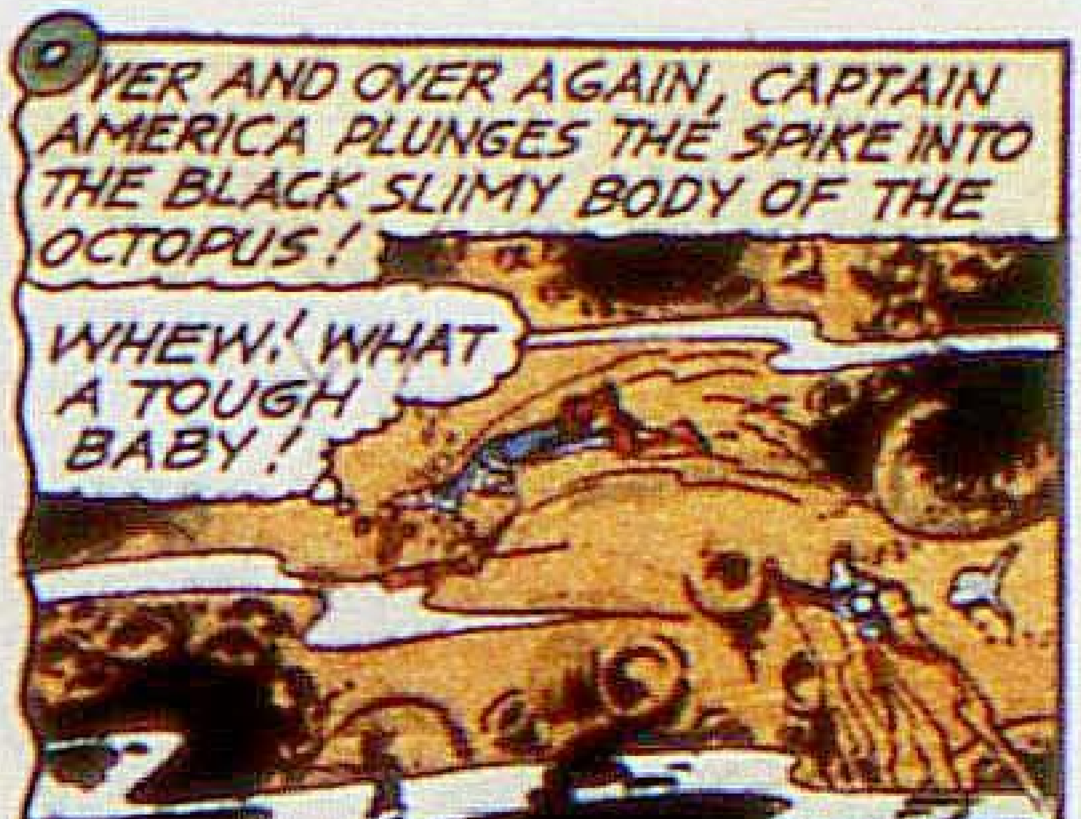

--BUT AS CAP HELPS BUCKY UP----
UP YOU GO, BUCKY!
THANKS, CAP!
SUDDENLY, CAPTAIN AMERICA FEELS A NOOSE TIGHTEN ABOUT HIS FOOT!
WHA!
COME DOWN, OR WE'LL PULL YOU DOWN!
THEY'VE GOT US THIS TIME, CAP! ONE MOVE AND THEY'LL PULL YOU RIGHT OFF!
YEAH, WE'LL GO DOWN AND SEE WHAT HAPPENS!
DOWN ON THE FLOOR LEVEL, CAPTAIN AMERICA AND BUCKY ARE SECURELY BOUND---
BLINDFOLD DEM AND TAKE DEM TO THE HIDEOUT! DERE DER EEL VILL TAKE CARE OF DEM!
H'MMM -- NOW WE'RE GETTING SOMEPLACE! THAT'S JUST THE GUY I WANT TO MEET. --THE HEAD MAN!
AT A SECLUDED PART OF THE HARBOR--
TELL DER EEL I WILL STAY HERE UND FINISH DER JOB ON DER BOAT!
YAH! I TELL HIM, MUSKELS!
SWIFTLY, THE SPEEDBOAT SKIMS OVER THE HARBOR!
8

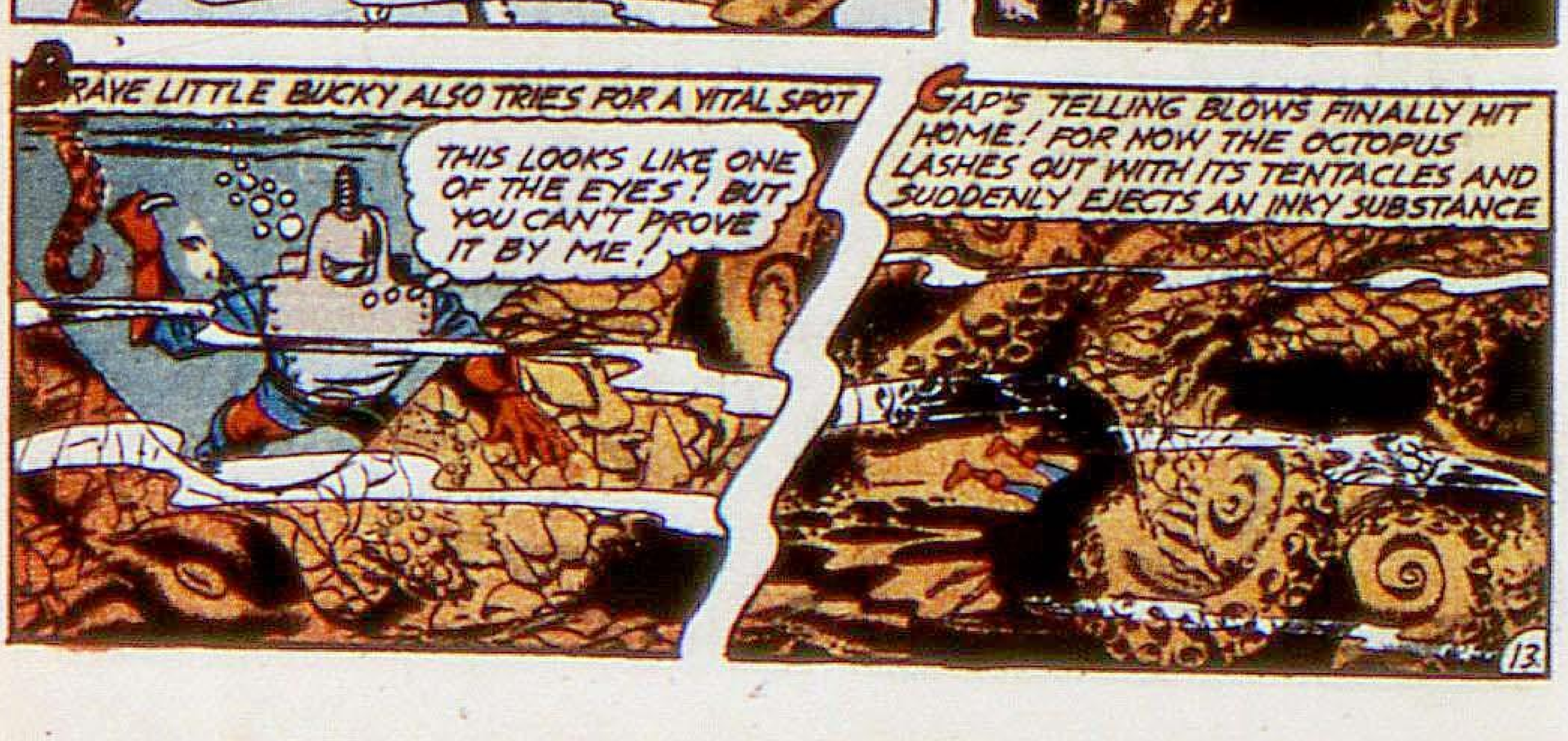

AS THE BOAT NEARS THE CLIFFS OF A RUGGED COAST, A SECRET DOOR OPENS IN THE SOLID ROCK!
THE EEL'S HIDEOUT IS A HUGE CAVE --
WE HAVE CAPTURED CAPTAIN AMERICA!
CAPTAIN AMERICA?? GOOD! NOW I HAVE NOTHING MORE TO FEAR!
THE GREAT CAPTAIN AMERICA! HEH, HEH!
SO, YOU'RE THE BIG SMELL BEHIND THE SCENES!
H'MMM--MAYBE NOW WE'LL FIND OUT HOW HE SINKS THE SHIPS IN THE HARBOR!
THERE! DOWN THERE, CAPTAIN AMERICA, IS YOUR REWARD FOR MEDDLING IN MY AFFAIRS!
CAPTAIN AMERICA AND BUCKY PEER DOWN INTO A HUGE PIT, CRAWLING WITH LARGE ELECTRIC EELS!
MY PETS WILL TAKE CARE OF YOU TWO! I KEEP THEM HUNGRY PURPOSELY, SO THAT I CAN SERVE MY GUESTS TO THEM!
I WILL SEE TO IT THAT THE NEW SHIP BEING LAUNCHED TO-NIGHT IS SUNK!--WE SHALL CELEBRATE CAPTAIN AMERICA'S DEATH! THROW THEM INTO THE PIT!
STICK CLOSE TO ME, BUCKY, WHEN WE LAND!

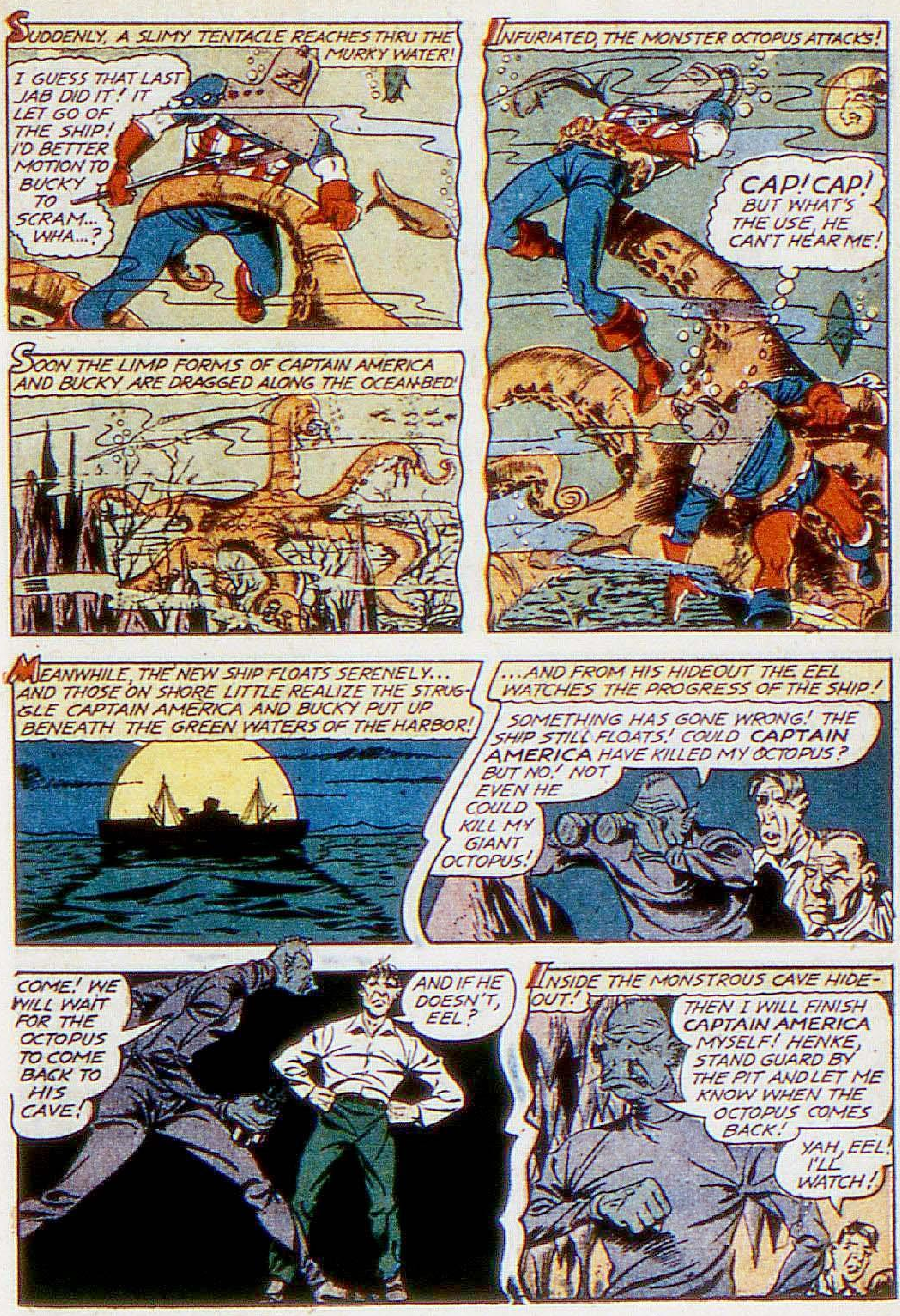

THE EEL PREPARES TO LEAVE WITH HIS MEN---
AFTER I HAVE SUNK THE NEW SHIP, I WILL COME BACK AND SEE WHAT'S LEFT OF CAPTAIN AMERICA!
--AND CAPTAIN AMERICA STRUGGLES DESPERATELY AGAINST THE SLIMY ELECTRIC EELS!
I'LL KEEP 'EM OFF, BUCK! YOU LOOK FOR A WAY OUT!
OKAY, CAP!
DESPERATELY, BUCKY LOOKS FOR A WAY OUT OF THE SLIMY PIT!
BOY! ARE WE IN A SPOT!
SUDDENLY!
CAP! CAP! LOOK! I MUST HAVE TOUCHED A HIDDEN SPRING!
WE CAN THANK OUR LUCKY STARS FOR THE SHIELD!
ANY IDEA HOW WE'RE GOING TO GET OUT, CAP?
NO, BUCKY! BUT WE'VE GOT TO GET ON THAT SHIP BEFORE IT'S LAUNCHED! C'MON!
MEANWHILE, THE CLEVER WILY EEL HAS PULLED SOME STRINGS, AND THE SHIP IS BEING LAUNCHED!
AH! THIS IS PERFECT! GETTING THE FOOLS TO LAUNCH THE SHIP AT NIGHT! NOW, THEY WILL NEVER DISCOVER MY SECRET! HA, HA! AND CAPTAIN AMERICA IS OUT OF THE WAY!
WITH THE OFFICIATING CEREMONY OVER, ANOTHER SHIP SLIDES DOWN THE RUNWAY--TO WHAT? WHAT LIES AHEAD IN HORROR HARBOR?

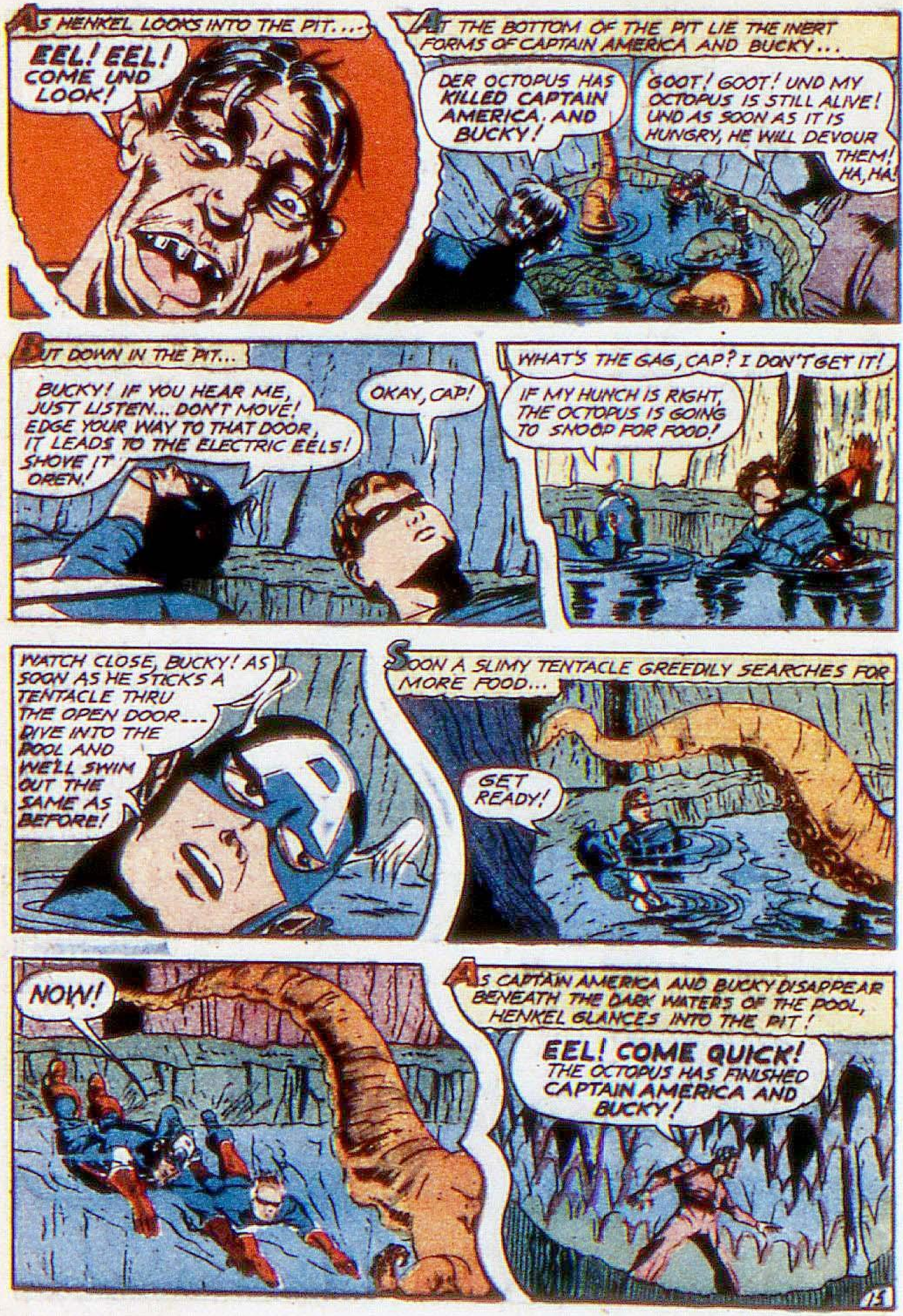

CAPTAIN AMERICA AND BUCKY BEHOLD A GHASTLY SIGHT... A SIGHT THAT WOULD FREEZE THE BLOOD IN THE VEINS OF THE MOST STALWART!
THE SHIPS PLATES GROAN, AND QUIVER AS THE MONSTROUS OCTOPUS IS ABOUT TO PULL THE SHIP BENEATH THE WATER... JUST THEN CAPTAIN AMERICA ATTACKS!

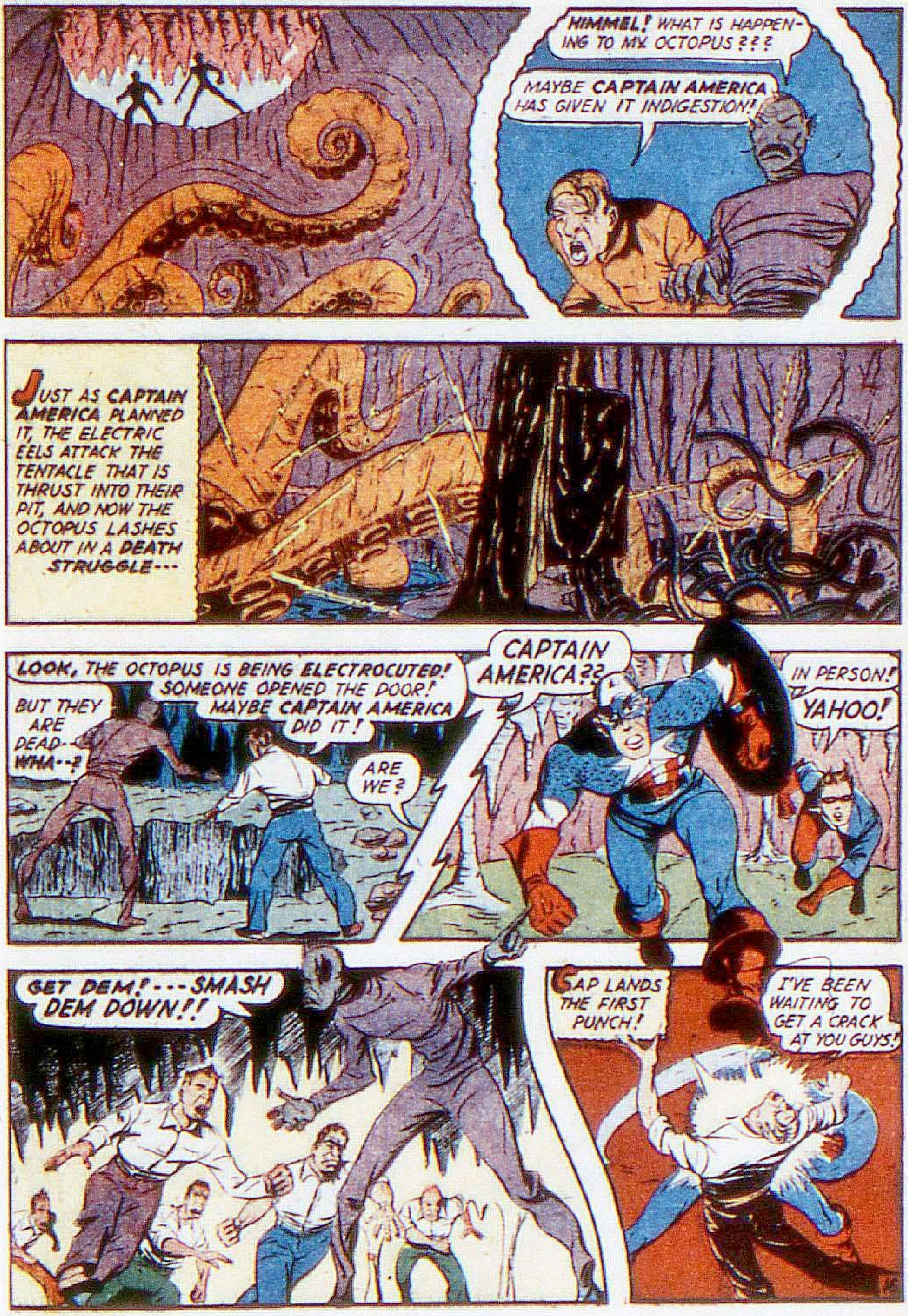

I HOPE I CAN TICKLE THIS BABY SO HE'LL LET GO OF THE SHIP!

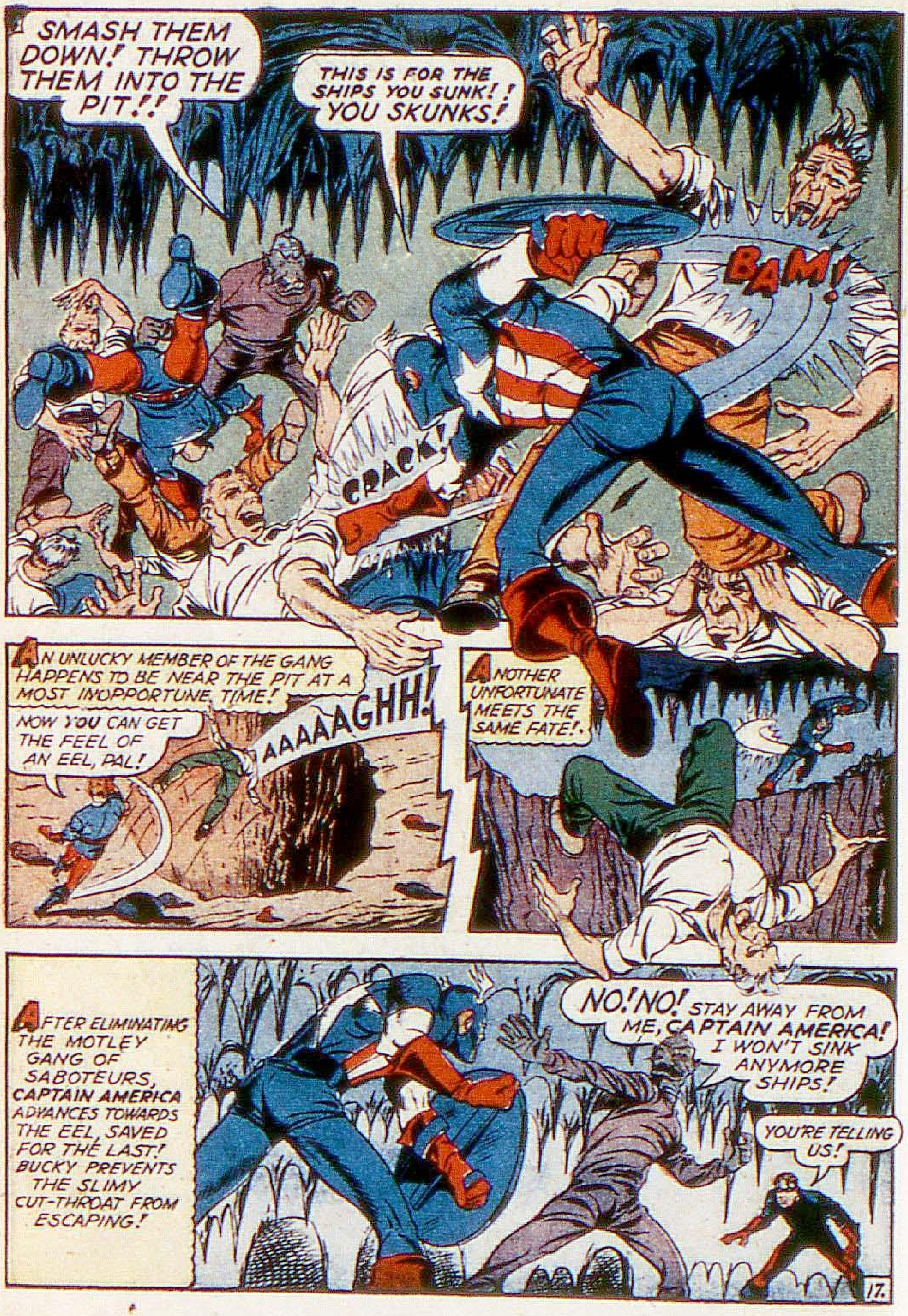

OVER AND OVER AGAIN, CAPTAIN AMERICA PLUNGES THE SPIKE INTO THE BLACK SLIMY BODY OF THE OCTOPUS!
WHEW! WHAT A TOUGH BABY!

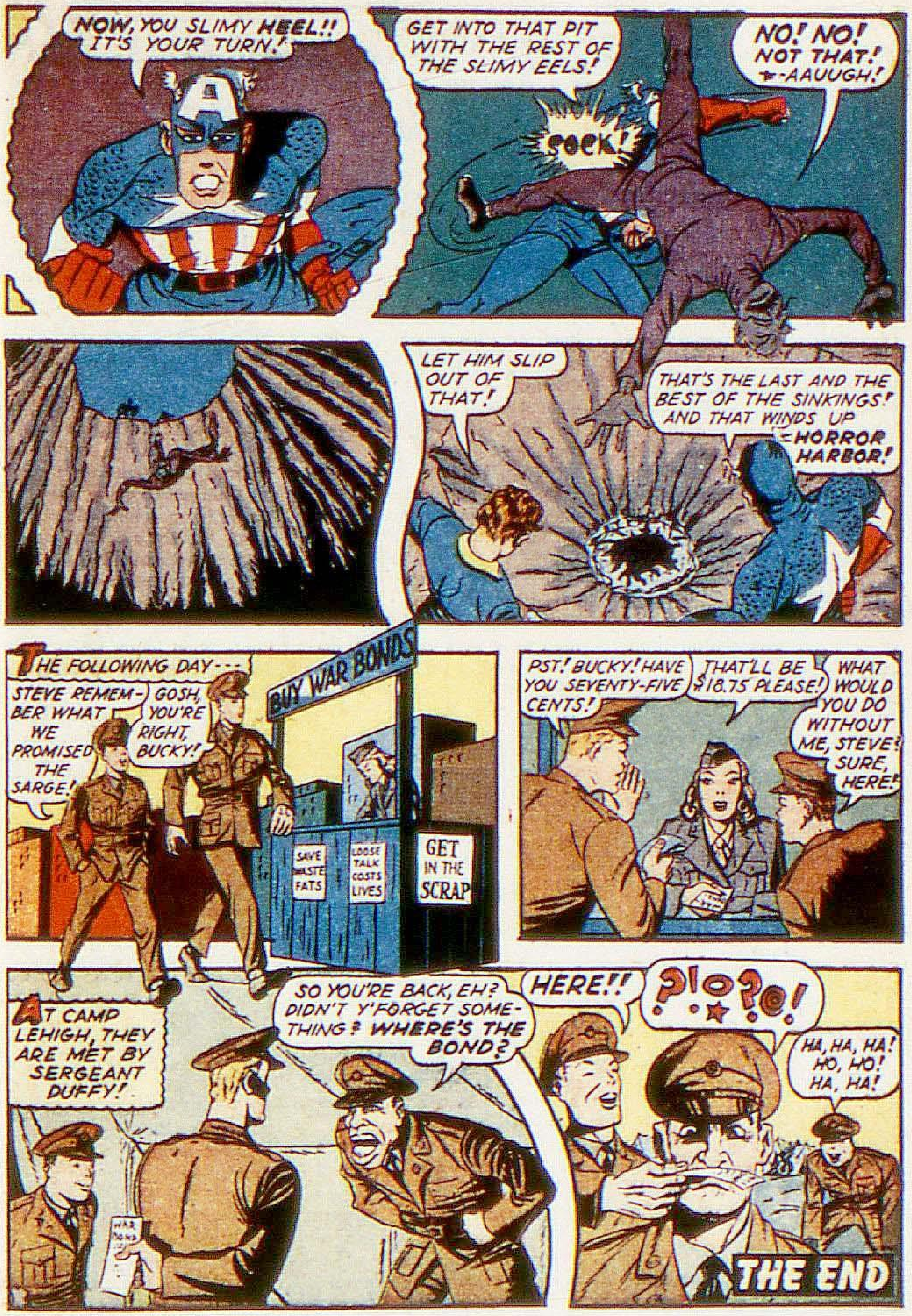

BRAVE LITTLE BUCKY ALSO TRIES FOR A VITAL SPOT
THIS LOOKS LIKE ONE OF THE EYES! BUT YOU CAN'T PROVE IT BY ME!
CAP'S TELLING BLOWS FINALLY HIT HOME! FOR NOW THE OCTOPUS LASHES OUT WITH ITS TENTACLES AND SUDDENLY EJECTS AN INKY SUBSTANCE


SUDDENLY, A SLIMY TENTACLE REACHES THRU THE MURKY WATER!
I GUESS THAT LAST JAB DID IT! IT LET GO OF THE SHIP! I'D BETTER MOTION TO BUCKY TO SCRAM... WHA...?
INFURIATED, THE MONSTER OCTOPUS ATTACKS!
CAP! CAP! BUT WHAT'S THE USE, HE CAN'T HEAR ME!
SOON THE LIMP FORMS OF CAPTAIN AMERICA AND BUCKY ARE DRAGGED ALONG THE OCEAN-BED!
MEANWHILE, THE NEW SHIP FLOATS SERENELY... AND THOSE ON SHORE LITTLE REALIZE THE STRUGGLE CAPTAIN AMERICA AND BUCKY PUT UP BENEATH THE GREEN WATERS OF THE HARBOR!
...AND FROM HIS HIDEOUT THE EEL WATCHES THE PROGRESS OF THE SHIP!
SOMETHING HAS GONE WRONG! THE SHIP STILL FLOATS! COULD CAPTAIN AMERICA HAVE KILLED MY OCTOPUS? BUT NO! NOT EVEN HE COULD KILL MY GIANT OCTOPUS!
COME! WE WILL WAIT FOR THE OCTOPUS TO COME BACK TO HIS CAVE!
AND IF HE DOESN'T, EEL?
INSIDE THE MONSTROUS CAVE HIDE-OUT!
THEN I WILL FINISH CAPTAIN AMERICA MYSELF! HENKE, STAND GUARD BY THE PIT AND LET ME KNOW WHEN THE OCTOPUS COMES BACK!
YAH, EEL! I'LL WATCH!


AS HENKEL LOOKS INTO THE PIT...
EEL! EEL! COME UND LOOK!
AT THE BOTTOM OF THE PIT LIE THE INERT FORMS OF CAPTAIN AMERICA AND BUCKY...
DER OCTOPUS HAS KILLED CAPTAIN AMERICA, AND BUCKY!
GOOT! GOOT! UND MY OCTOPUS IS STILL ALIVE! UND AS SOON AS IT IS HUNGRY, HE WILL DEVOUR THEM! HA, HA!
BUT DOWN IN THE PIT...
BUCKY! IF YOU HEAR ME, JUST LISTEN... DON'T MOVE! EDGE YOUR WAY TO THAT DOOR, IT LEADS TO THE ELECTRIC EELS! SHOVE IT OREN!
OKAY, CAP!
WHAT'S THE GAG, CAP? I DON'T GET IT!
IF MY HUNCH IS RIGHT, THE OCTOPUS IS GOING TO SNOOP FOR FOOD!
WATCH CLOSE, BUCKY! AS SOON AS HE STICKS A TENTACLE THRU THE OPEN DOOR... DIVE INTO THE POOL AND WE'LL SWIM OUT THE SAME AS BEFORE!
SOON A SLIMY TENTACLE GREEDILY SEARCHES FOR MORE FOOD...
GET READY!
NOW!
AS CAPTAIN AMERICA AND BUCKY DISAPPEAR BENEATH THE DARK WATERS OF THE POOL, HENKEL GLANCES INTO THE PIT!
EEL! COME QUICK! THE OCTOPUS HAS FINISHED CAPTAIN AMERICA AND BUCKY!


HIMMEL! WHAT IS HAPPENING TO MY OCTOPUS???
MAYBE CAPTAIN AMERICA HAS GIVEN IT INDIGESTION!
JUST AS CAPTAIN AMERICA PLANNED IT, THE ELECTRIC EELS ATTACK THE TENTACLE THAT IS THRUST INTO THEIR PIT, AND NOW THE OCTOPUS LASHES ABOUT IN A DEATH STRUGGLE---
LOOK, THE OCTOPUS IS BEING ELECTROCUTED! SOMEONE OPENED THE DOOR! MAYBE CAPTAIN AMERICA DID IT!
BUT THEY ARE DEAD--WHA--?
ARE WE?
CAPTAIN AMERICA??
IN PERSON!
YAHOO!
GET DEM!---SMASH DEM DOWN!!
CAP LANDS THE FIRST PUNCH!
I'VE BEEN WAITING TO GET A CRACK AT YOU GUYS!


SMASH THEM DOWN! THROW THEM INTO THE PIT!!
THIS IS FOR THE SHIPS YOU SUNK!! YOU SKUNKS!
BAM!
CRACK!
AN UNLUCKY MEMBER OF THE GANG HAPPENS TO BE NEAR THE PIT AT A MOST INOPPORTUNE TIME!
NOW YOU CAN GET THE FEEL OF AN EEL, PAL!
AAAAAAGHH!
ANOTHER UNFORTUNATE MEETS THE SAME FATE!
AFTER ELIMINATING THE MOTLEY GANG OF SABOTEURS, CAPTAIN AMERICA ADVANCES TOWARDS THE EEL, SAVED FOR THE LAST! BUCKY PREVENTS THE SLIMY CUT-THROAT FROM ESCAPING!
NO! NO! STAY AWAY FROM ME, CAPTAIN AMERICA! I WON'T SINK ANYMORE SHIPS!
YOU'RE TELLING US!


NOW, YOU SLIMY HEEL!! IT'S YOUR TURN!
GET INTO THAT PIT WITH THE REST OF THE SLIMY EELS!
SOCK!
NO! NO! NOT THAT! -AAUUGH!
LET HIM SLIP OUT OF THAT!
THAT'S THE LAST AND THE BEST OF THE SINKINGS! AND THAT WINDS UP HORROR HARBOR!
THE FOLLOWING DAY---
STEVE REMEMBER WHAT WE PROMISED THE SARGE!
GOSH, YOU'RE RIGHT, BUCKY!
BUY WAR BONDS
SAVE WASTE FATS
LOOSE TALK COSTS LIVES
GET IN THE SCRAP
PST! BUCKY! HAVE YOU SEVENTY-FIVE CENTS!
THAT'LL BE $18.75 PLEASE!
WHAT WOULD YOU DO WITHOUT ME, STEVE? SURE, HERE!
AT CAMP LEHIGH, THEY ARE MET BY SERGEANT DUFFY!
WAR BOND
SO YOU'RE BACK, EH? DIDN'T Y'FORGET SOMETHING? WHERE'S THE BOND?
HERE!!
?!o?e!
HA, HA, HA! HO, HO! HA, HA!
THE END

A NOSEY GUY

THE BOAT SEEMED barely to be moving and Pete, Lieutenant Peter Wilson, paced the deck restlessly trying not to feel the heavy grey sky pressing down overhead, nor to feel the rolling toss of waves against the small steamer This crossing was dangerous but Pete had made it so often he knew it almost by heart Most of the thrill and uncertainty and excitement of a possible attack had dimmed long ago But he was nervous now and it wasn't just that Commander Ryder would be waiting with a lecture, either. .

A voice said, "Why don't you come inside and take it easy, Pete?. Forget Bill Ryder—"

"Guess I've got the jitters"

Todd Winters soothed, "We've been on this hop a long time. Come on inside and thaw out!"

"You'd think," Pete muttered, "that this was Bill Ryder's personal scrap If you don't do just exactly as he says, he has a fit. He'll have one too many some day. . . I hope!"

Todd chuckled: "Bill says you're too damned nosey! He's just tied up in his job Got a lot invested in the war! A home, swell job, girl waiting for him. I've heard his mother's on the way over from the other side right now!"

Pete snorted "Calls me nosey because I went off course to check a tramp freighter once . among other things!"

"Yea. Guess it's the other things that've got him peeved!"

IT WAS ALMOST DARK when the crew arrived at the base There was a message at officers quarters instructing Pete to report to Commander Ryder Pete knew what it meant and headed for the make-shift administration buildings

"What held you up this time?" Commander Ryder demanded almost as soon as Pete got inside the door "You were late!"

"Yes, sir," Pete acknowledged. "I know that I—"

"Excuses again?" Bill Ryder's grey eyes narrowed, his lips pulled tight across his teeth He was small, wiry, a fighter from top to bottom, the kind of a guy who'd lose everything but the battle "I'm sick of listening to alibis," Bill Ryder pursued relentlessly

"I was forced down!" Pete broke in, anger getting the best of him "I think a plane more valuable than a few hours!"

"Why were you forced down?"

"There was a bad storm It broke before we got over the water so I dropped down There was plenty of room No danger"

"Sissies!" Commander Ryder grinned disdainfully "Maybe that's been it all the time! Not nosey but—"

Pete stepped forward "Don't say it unless you're willing to prove it!"

Bill Ryder shrugged "Later! Now—we've got a war to win You're going to get those ships over . . . or someone else will! No more excuses or alibies! You go on schedule. Stay on it. If you can't make the run same as the others . . . especially the gals . . ." Ryder paused, a chuckle rippling past his thin lips.

Steve felt his blood pound but remained silent. Bill concluded, "Your share in this fracas is to get those ships across! Nothing else matters. The next time you deviate for any reason whatsoever I'll go to the top to get you off this run!"

PETE SMOULDERED for hours. When he stopped to think about it, he realized he'd given up a good deal himself to come into this. Given it up voluntarily. Ferrying the ships across *was* a ticklish proposition!

He walked into the village later, met Todd and the others of the running crew in the dinky hotel lobby where they were smoking and chewing the fat. Bill Ryder was in another corner with a couple of his friends.

"See Ryder?" Todd wanted to know and Steve knew by the silence and tension gripping the five of them that they all knew he'd been on the carpet.

"Sure," Steve admitted "You know I did."

Todd chuckled. "Okay, boss. What'd he have to say?"

"Plenty He never pulls his punches. You know that."

Mel Griffin nodded, squinting through tobacco smoke toward the corner where Ryder and his party were laughing. Mel said, "What he needs is a damned good whipping—"

Steve nodded "There's no time like the present!"

Todd put out a restraining hand "Hey, we're hopping first thing in the morning No pufied eyes, please! Besides—Ryder's *still* big shot! What you want to do will have to wait till after the war!"

UP HERE STEVE REALIZED, nerves got frayed and ragged. Everybody was the same. This wasn't livbut merely existing; counting hours, days, weeks, till this blasted thing was over Men and women worked at jobs they disliked because it was a life and death proposition! The war had to be won!

That was about the way Bill Ryder figured, Steve realized. Maybe it was contagious, that brand of philosophy. Whatever it was—

The big transport took off smoothly, the motors a silken roar of music. But the sky was dull and low and grey and the coastline north was ruffled with lacey combers. Hour after hour they followed it, running on instruments much of the time with only an occasional glimpse of the ocean or land below. . . .

It was toward evening when the mist cleared enough for them to see the cliffs and the fire burning, a signal fire.

Todd telephoned, "Fire below. North by east. Probably nothing—"

Steve said, "We'll have a look."

"You're nuts!" Todd replied. "Bill Ryder—"

Steve hesitated. It wasn't far off course. Besides, if there were someone down there—someone hurt—

"We'll have a look anyhow!" he said, altering the big ship's course.

THERE WERE INJURED people and they needed help. The big clipper plane rode at restless anchor in a little cove, partially sheltered from the rising gale. When Steve pulled down close they could see the Stars and Stripes on her hull!

"Hey!" Todd yelped. "Where you going?"

"Radio for help, you chump—"

But Steve was headed down. He never quite remembered how he managed that landing. There was only a narrow table of clean land on top of the bluff As he came in low, he saw the crew hurrying toward the ridge It was nip-and-tuck! Nip . . . or maybe it was tuck . . . won Steve brought the big transport in without a crack-up!

The ship's crew, in their once natty uniform, had tried to repair the big flying boat's motors, but it was useless.

"We came in low because of the fog. Sub was lying there charging her batteries!" The skipper explained. His face was haggard, eyes sunken. "The first shot took us in the port motor, almost tore it out. The second—"

Steve nodded. He could see what had happened. The first, second and third shot

"How many are hurt?"

"One seriously!" The skipper turned to stare toward the big ship riding restlessly below them "It's more than that. The weather is bad. There's an old lady on board and two kids. They're pretty cold. Plucky—"

"Get 'em on board!" Steve ordered. "Quick! We'll have to beat this storm. There's snow already!"

There was sweat on Steve's hands as he took over the controls. He kept his brakes set until every inch of the big ship was trembling under the impact of the motors. He lifted the tail, eased his brakes off. He'd unloaded everything but the gas. . . .

THE BIG TRANSPORT zoomed down the narrow strip of ground. Once her big tires hit a hole She bounced dangerously but righted herself

Steve kept his teeth locked. Closer . . . closer . . he eased the stick back and the big ship lifted easily. Her wheels *just* cleared the trees and Steve headed back for the port and the carpet!

Commander Ryder looked up out of haggard eyes. He shook his head slowly. Steve said, "Before you start, remember there were lives to be saved! If I'd passed 'em up . . they might never have been found. Their radio was useless!"

"And there was a storm coming up!" Bill Ryder's thin lips drew into a faint smile. "What the hell am I going to do with you?"

Steve relaxed a little, waiting for the "works". He said, "Trouble with you is, you're not human! You forget others are fighting this war, too!"

Bill Ryder shook his head, his hands clasped tightly, almost as if he were praying. He said, "You're to be relieved of your command for ten days."

"Because I rescued a handful of people! You'd rather I'd left them than lose that time?"

"No!" Bill Ryder's voice was soft. "No. You see . . . Steve, I owe you plenty. The old lady on board that clipper was my mother!"

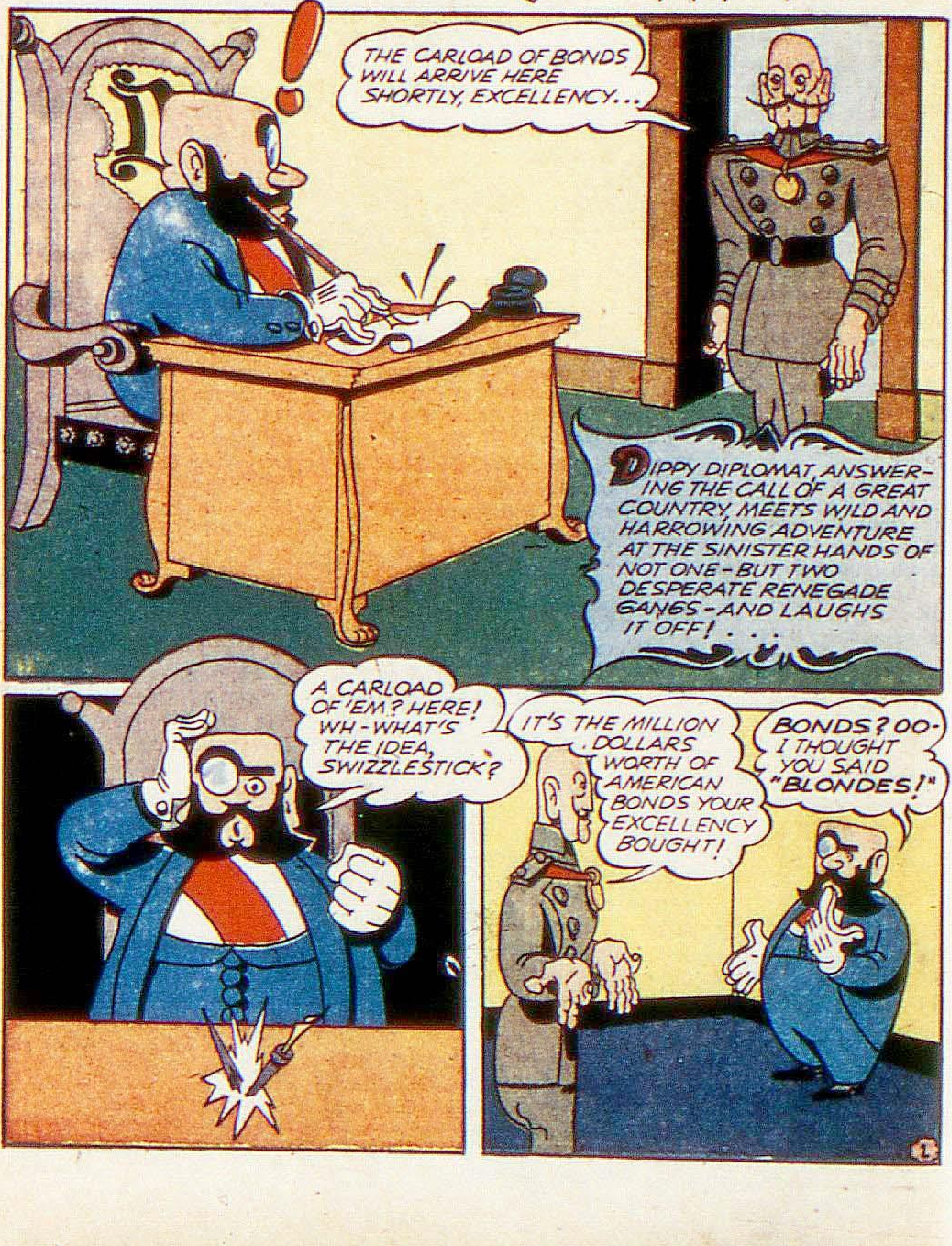
Steve hesitated. "And you're relieving me just the same?"

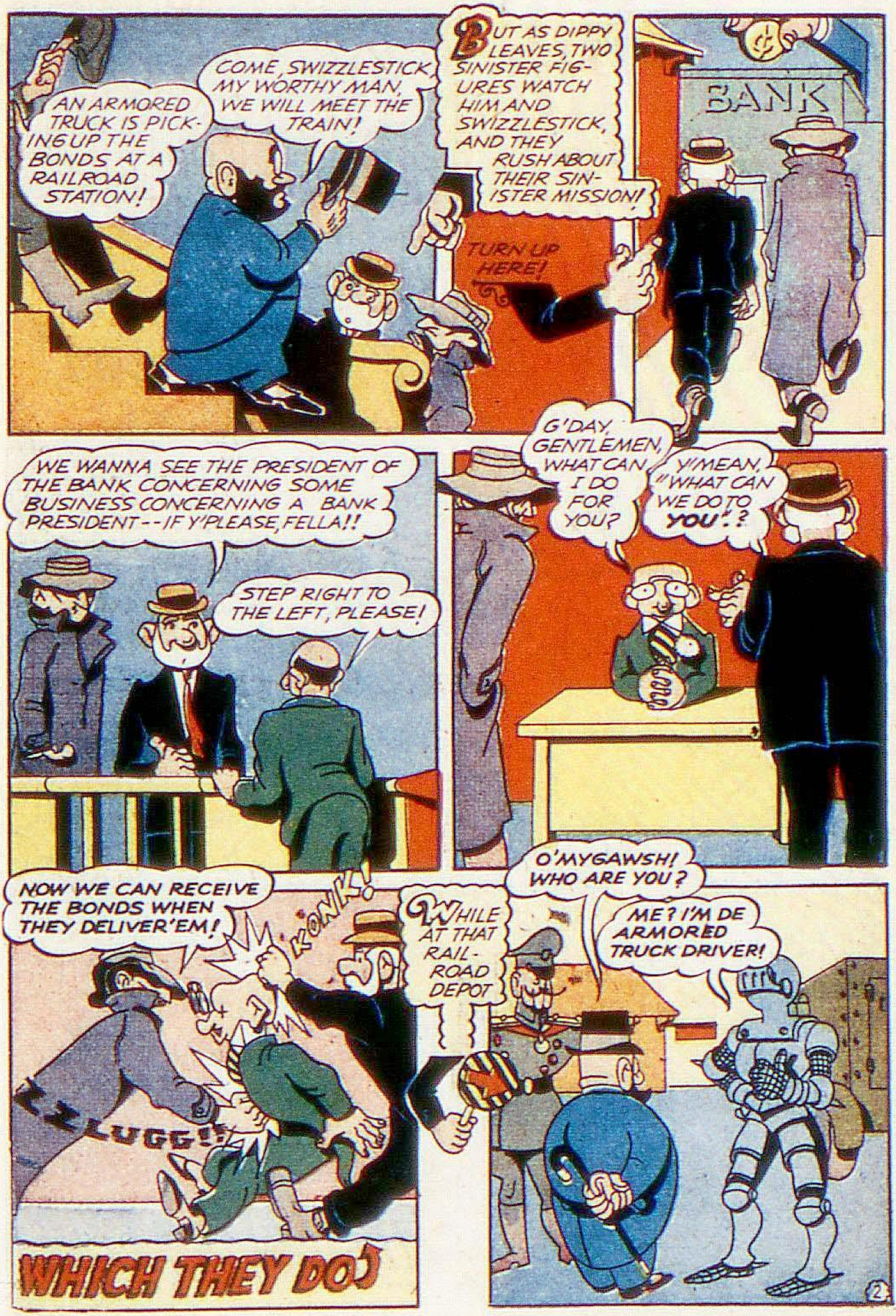
Ryder nodded. "That's right." He smiled, stood up. "You can rest up. And we'll settle that other argument. Although," he laughed, "I know the answer to that already. And I'm beginning to realize that being a nosey guy pays dividends after all. Want to shake?"

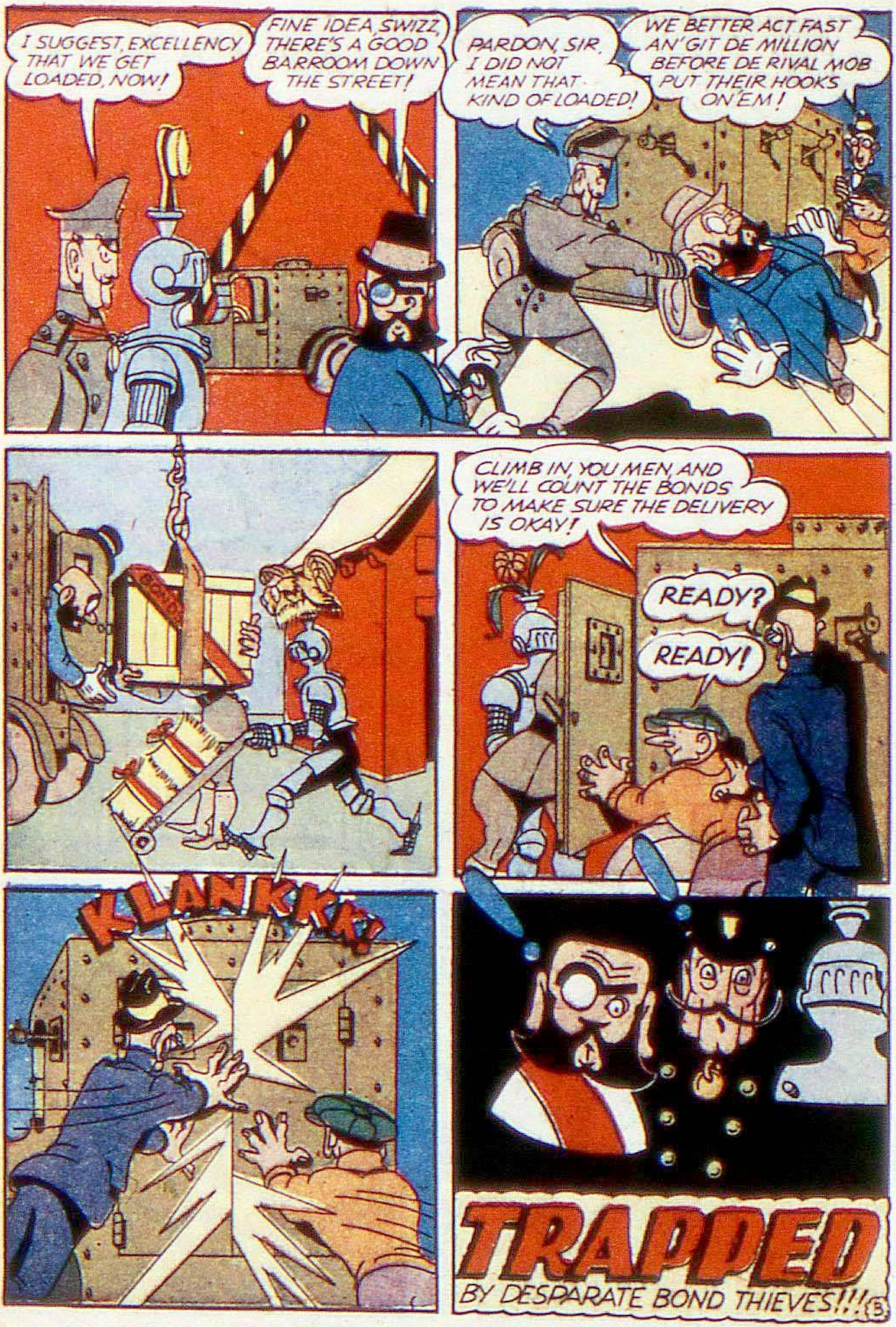
The End

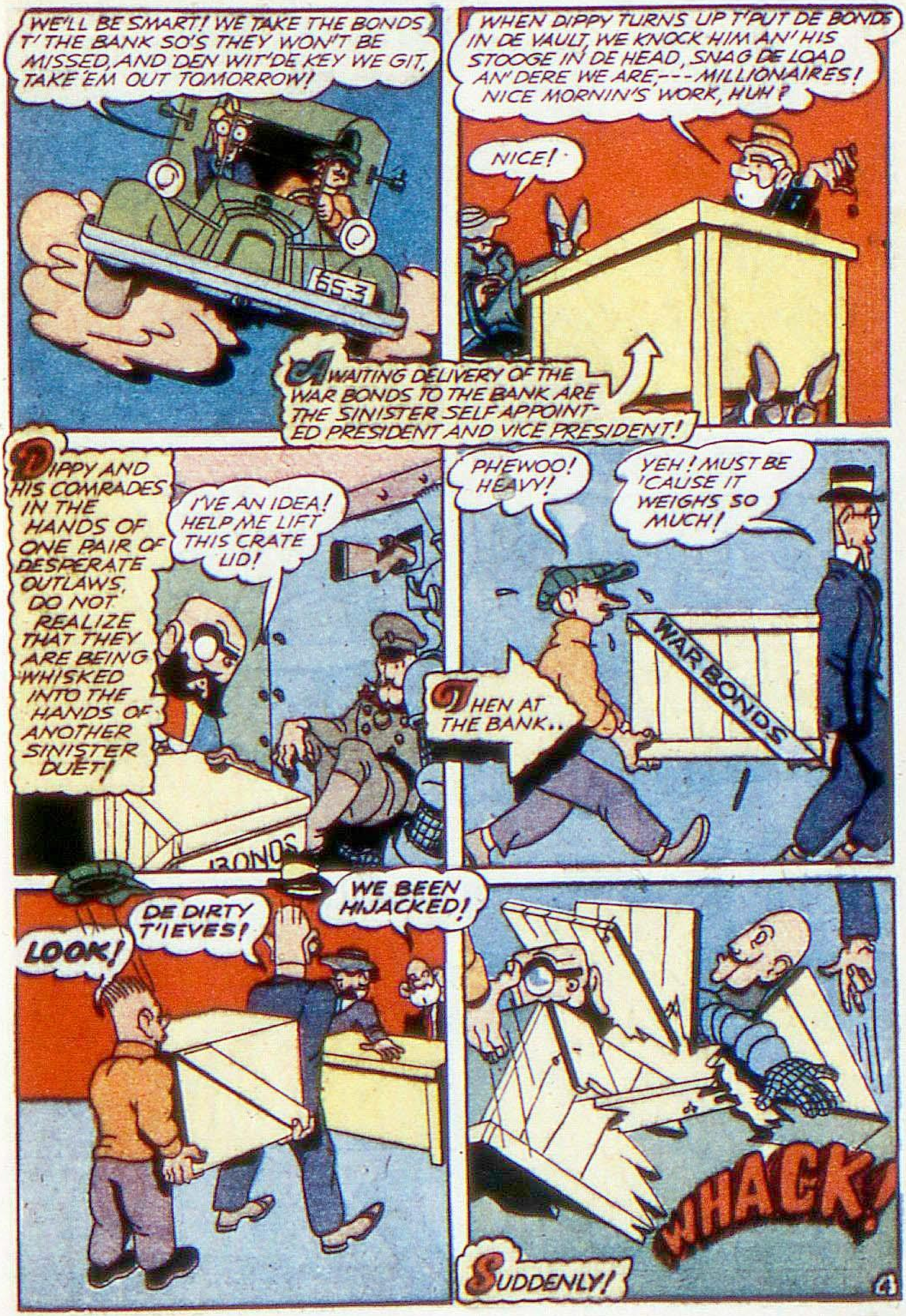
DIPPY DIPLOMAT

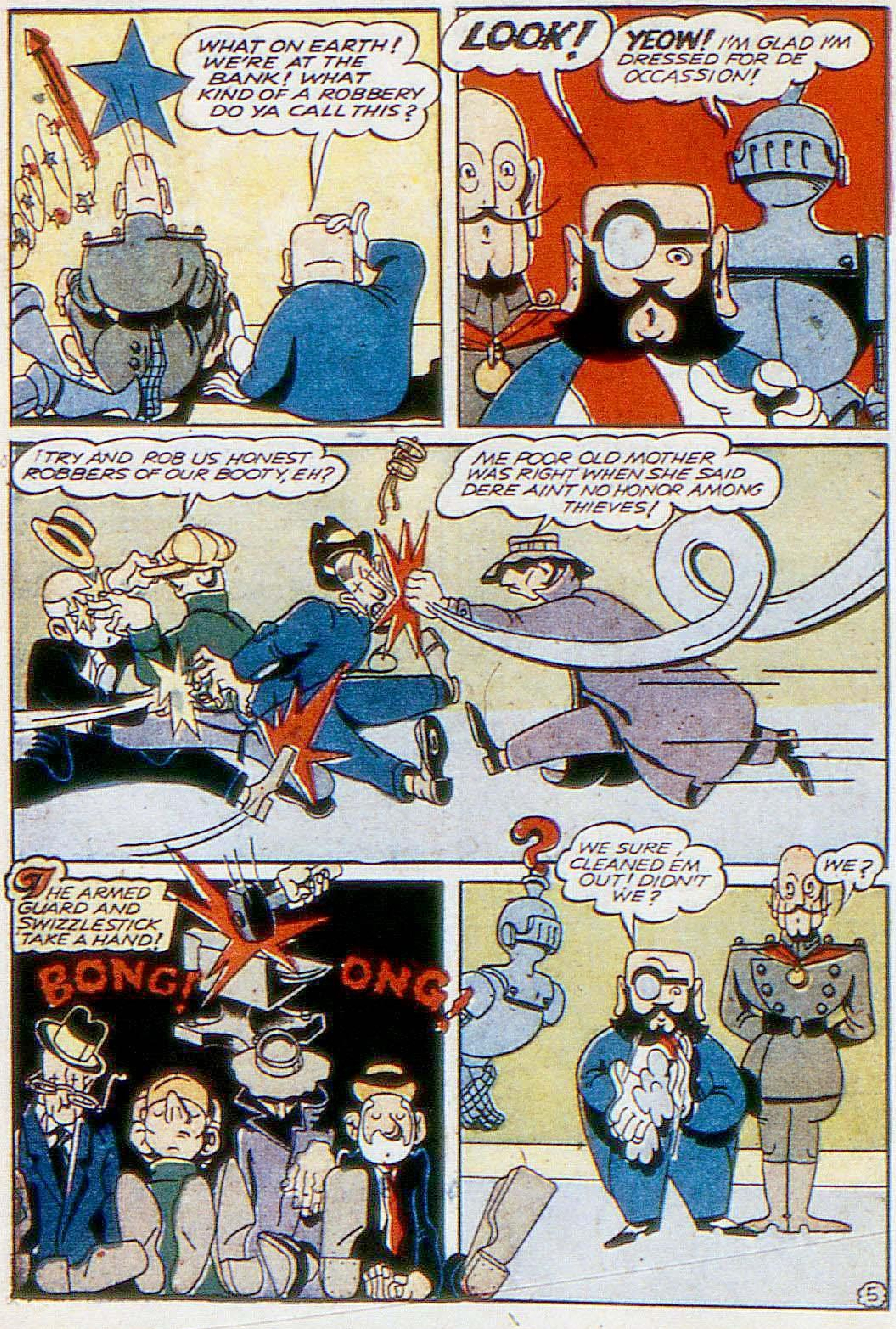
by Guy Blythe

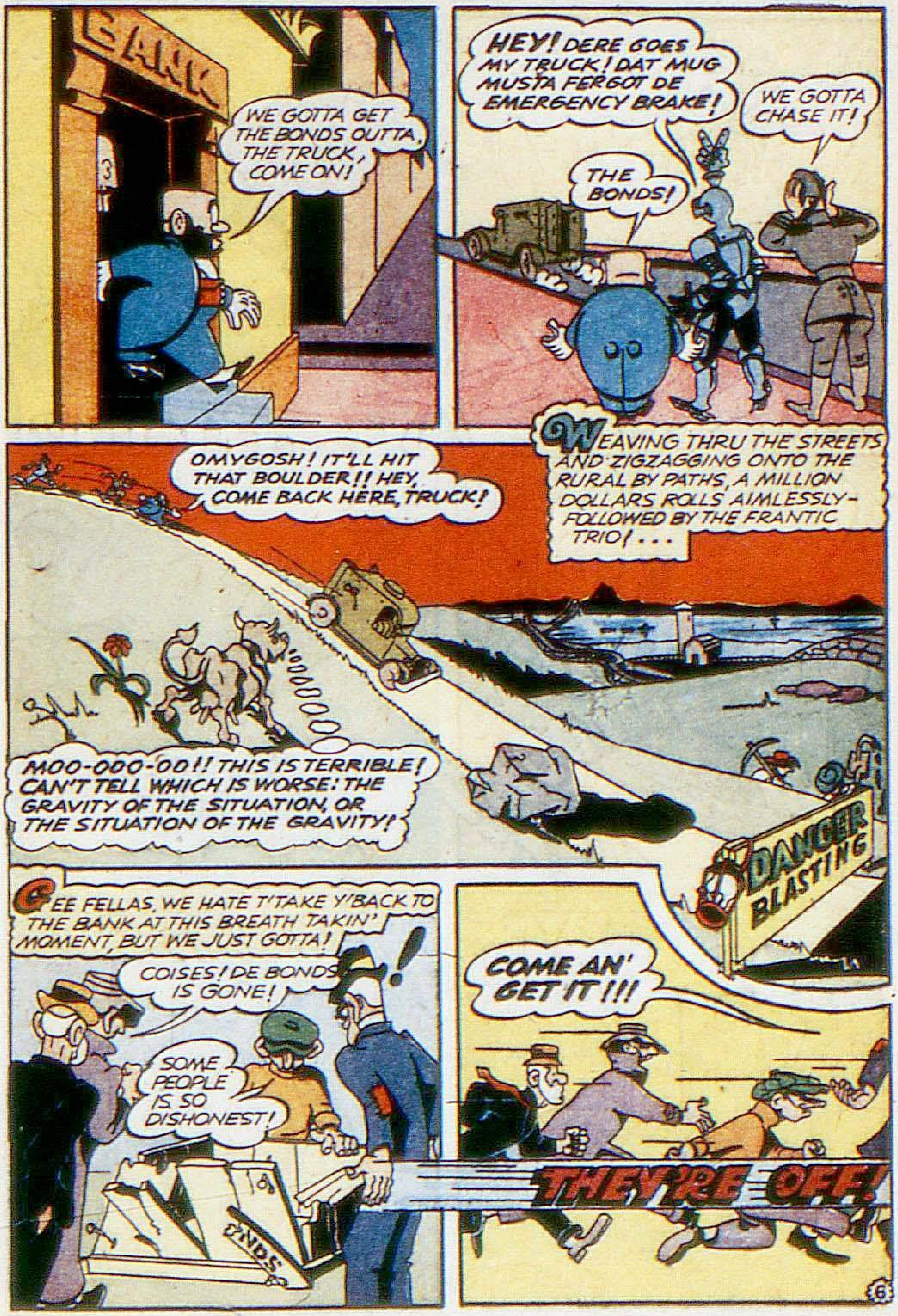

!
THE CARLOAD OF BONDS WILL ARRIVE HERE SHORTLY, EXCELLENCY...
DIPPY DIPLOMAT, ANSWERING THE CALL OF A GREAT COUNTRY, MEETS WILD AND HARROWING ADVENTURE AT THE SINISTER HANDS OF NOT ONE-BUT TWO DESPERATE RENEGADE GANGS-AND LAUGHS IT OFF!...
A CARLOAD OF 'EM? HERE! WH-WHAT'S THE IDEA, SWIZZLESTICK?
IT'S THE MILLION DOLLARS WORTH OF AMERICAN BONDS YOUR EXCELLENCY BOUGHT!
BONDS? OO-I THOUGHT YOU SAID "BLONDES!"

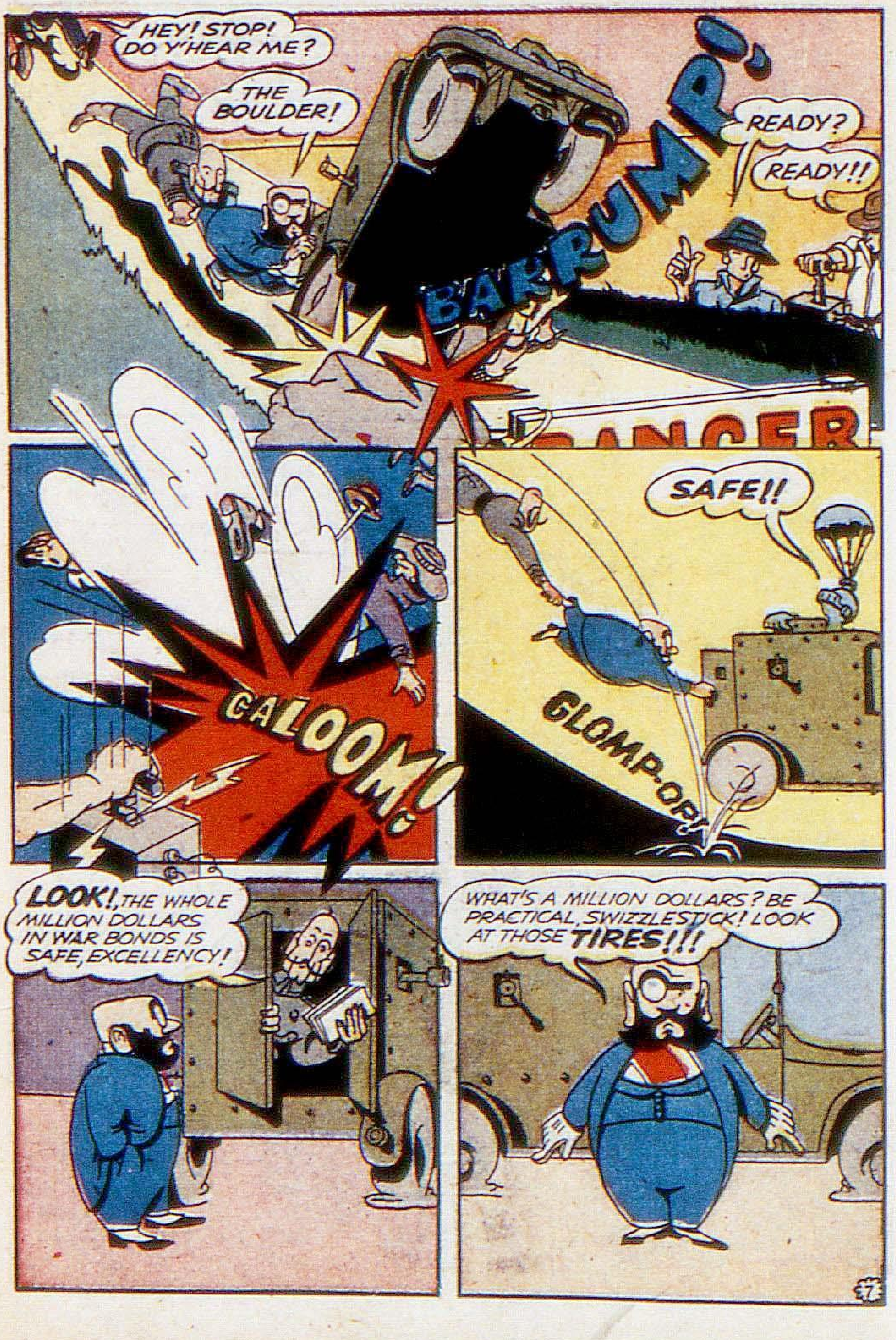

AN ARMORED TRUCK IS PICKING UP THE BONDS AT A RAILROAD STATION!
COME, SWIZZLESTICK, MY WORTHY MAN, WE WILL MEET THE TRAIN!
BUT AS DIPPY LEAVES, TWO SINISTER FIGURES WATCH HIM AND SWIZZLESTICK, AND THEY RUSH ABOUT THEIR SINISTER MISSION!
TURN UP HERE!
BANK
WE WANNA SEE THE PRESIDENT OF THE BANK CONCERNING SOME BUSINESS CONCERNING A BANK PRESIDENT--IF Y'PLEASE, FELLA!!
STEP RIGHT TO THE LEFT, PLEASE!
G'DAY, GENTLEMEN, WHAT CAN I DO FOR YOU?
Y'MEAN, "WHAT CAN WE DO TO YOU"?
NOW WE CAN RECEIVE THE BONDS WHEN THEY DELIVER'EM!
KONK!
ZZLUGG!!
WHICH THEY DO
WHILE AT THAT RAILROAD DEPOT
O'MYGAWSH! WHO ARE YOU?
ME? I'M DE ARMORED TRUCK DRIVER!

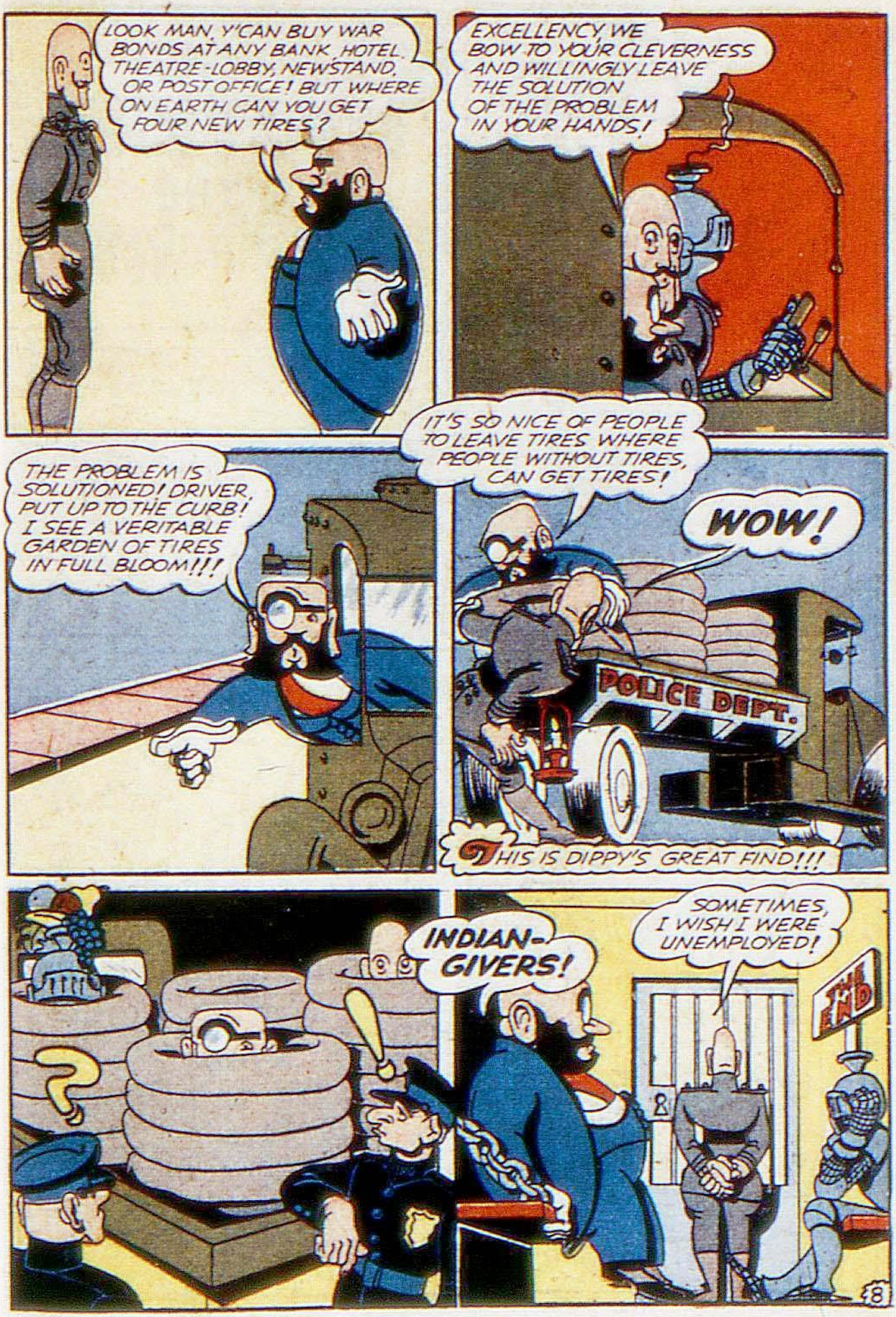

I SUGGEST, EXCELLENCY THAT WE GET LOADED, NOW!
FINE IDEA, SWIZZ, THERE'S A GOOD BARROOM DOWN THE STREET!
PARDON, SIR, I DID NOT MEAN THAT KIND OF LOADED!
WE BETTER ACT FAST AN' GIT DE MILLION BEFORE DE RIVAL MOB PUT THEIR HOOKS ON 'EM!
BONDS
CLIMB IN, YOU MEN, AND WE'LL COUNT THE BONDS TO MAKE SURE THE DELIVERY IS OKAY!
READY?
READY!
KLANKKK!
TRAPPED
BY DESPARATE BOND THIEVES!!!
3

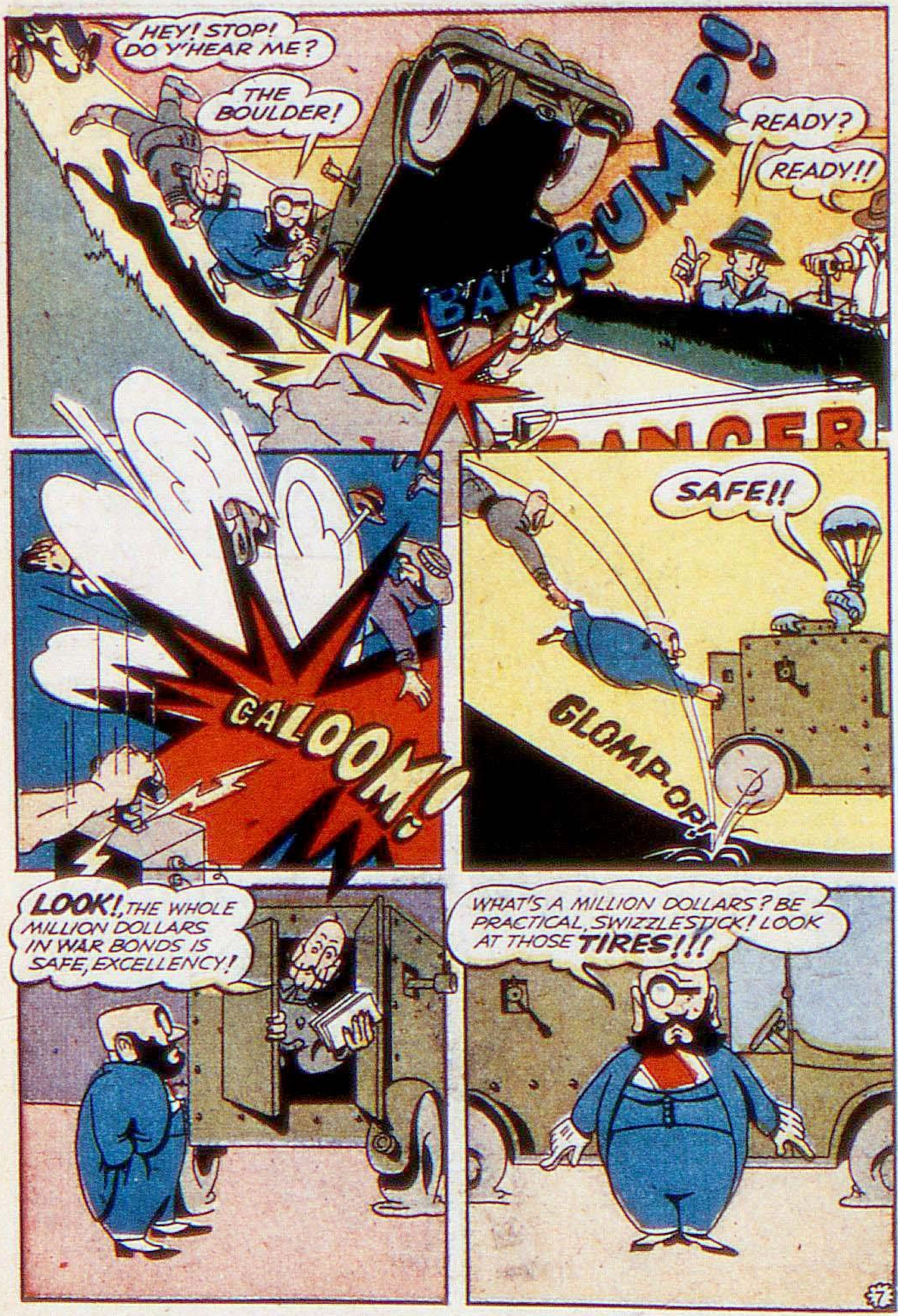

WE'LL BE SMART! WE TAKE THE BONDS T' THE BANK SO'S THEY WON'T BE MISSED, AND 'DEN WIT' DE KEY WE GIT, TAKE 'EM OUT TOMORROW!
65-3
WHEN DIPPY TURNS UP T'PUT DE BONDS IN DE VAULT, WE KNOCK HIM AN' HIS STOOGE IN DE HEAD, SNAG DE LOAD AN' DERE WE ARE,---MILLIONAIRES! NICE MORNIN'S WORK, HUH?
NICE!
AWAITING DELIVERY OF THE WAR BONDS TO THE BANK ARE THE SINISTER SELF APPOINTED PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT!
DIPPY AND HIS COMRADES IN THE HANDS OF ONE PAIR OF DESPERATE OUTLAWS, DO NOT REALIZE THAT THEY ARE BEING WHISKED INTO THE HANDS OF ANOTHER SINISTER DUET!
I'VE AN IDEA! HELP ME LIFT THIS CRATE LID!
BONDS
PHEWOO! HEAVY!
YEH! MUST BE 'CAUSE IT WEIGHS SO MUCH!
THEN AT THE BANK..
WAR BONDS
LOOK!
DE DIRTY T'IEVES!
WE BEEN HIJACKED!
WHACK!
SUDDENLY!


WHAT ON EARTH! WE'RE AT THE BANK! WHAT KIND OF A ROBBERY DO YA CALL THIS?
LOOK!
YEOW! I'M GLAD I'M DRESSED FOR DE OCCASSION!
TRY AND ROB US HONEST ROBBERS OF OUR BOOTY, EH?
ME POOR OLD MOTHER WAS RIGHT WHEN SHE SAID DERE AINT NO HONOR AMONG THIEVES!
THE ARMED GUARD AND SWIZZLESTICK TAKE A HAND!
BONG!
ONG!
?
WE SURE CLEANED EM OUT! DIDN'T WE?
WE?
5


BANK
WE GOTTA GET THE BONDS OUTTA THE TRUCK, COME ON!
HEY! DERE GOES MY TRUCK! DAT MUG MUSTA FERGOT DE EMERGENCY BRAKE!
WE GOTTA CHASE IT!
THE BONDS!
WEAVING THRU THE STREETS AND ZIGZAGGING ONTO THE RURAL BY PATHS, A MILLION DOLLARS ROLLS AIMLESSLY- FOLLOWED BY THE FRANTIC TRIO! . . .
OMYGOSH! IT'LL HIT THAT BOULDER!! HEY, COME BACK HERE, TRUCK!
MOO-OOO-OO!! THIS IS TERRIBLE! CAN'T TELL WHICH IS WORSE: THE GRAVITY OF THE SITUATION, OR THE SITUATION OF THE GRAVITY!
DANGER BLASTING
GEE FELLAS, WE HATE T'TAKE Y'BACK TO THE BANK AT THIS BREATH TAKIN' MOMENT, BUT WE JUST GOTTA!
COISES! DE BONDS IS GONE!
!
SOME PEOPLE IS SO DISHONEST!
BONDS
COME AN' GET IT!!!
THEY'RE OFF!


HEY! STOP! DO Y'HEAR ME?
THE BOULDER!
BARRUMP!
READY?
READY!!
ANGER
GALOOM!
SAFE!!
GLOMP-OP!
LOOK!, THE WHOLE MILLION DOLLARS IN WAR BONDS IS SAFE, EXCELLENCY!
WHAT'S A MILLION DOLLARS? BE PRACTICAL, SWIZZLESTICK! LOOK AT THOSE **TIRES!!!**


LOOK MAN, Y'CAN BUY WAR BONDS AT ANY BANK, HOTEL, THEATRE-LOBBY, NEWSTAND, OR POST OFFICE! BUT WHERE ON EARTH CAN YOU GET FOUR NEW TIRES?
EXCELLENCY, WE BOW TO YOUR CLEVERNESS AND WILLINGLY LEAVE THE SOLUTION OF THE PROBLEM IN YOUR HANDS!
THE PROBLEM IS SOLUTIONED! DRIVER, PUT UP TO THE CURB! I SEE A VERITABLE GARDEN OF TIRES IN FULL BLOOM!!!
IT'S SO NICE OF PEOPLE TO LEAVE TIRES WHERE PEOPLE WITHOUT TIRES, CAN GET TIRES!
WOW!
POLICE DEPT.
THIS IS DIPPY'S GREAT FIND!!!
INDIAN-GIVERS!
SOMETIMES, I WISH I WERE UNEMPLOYED!
THE END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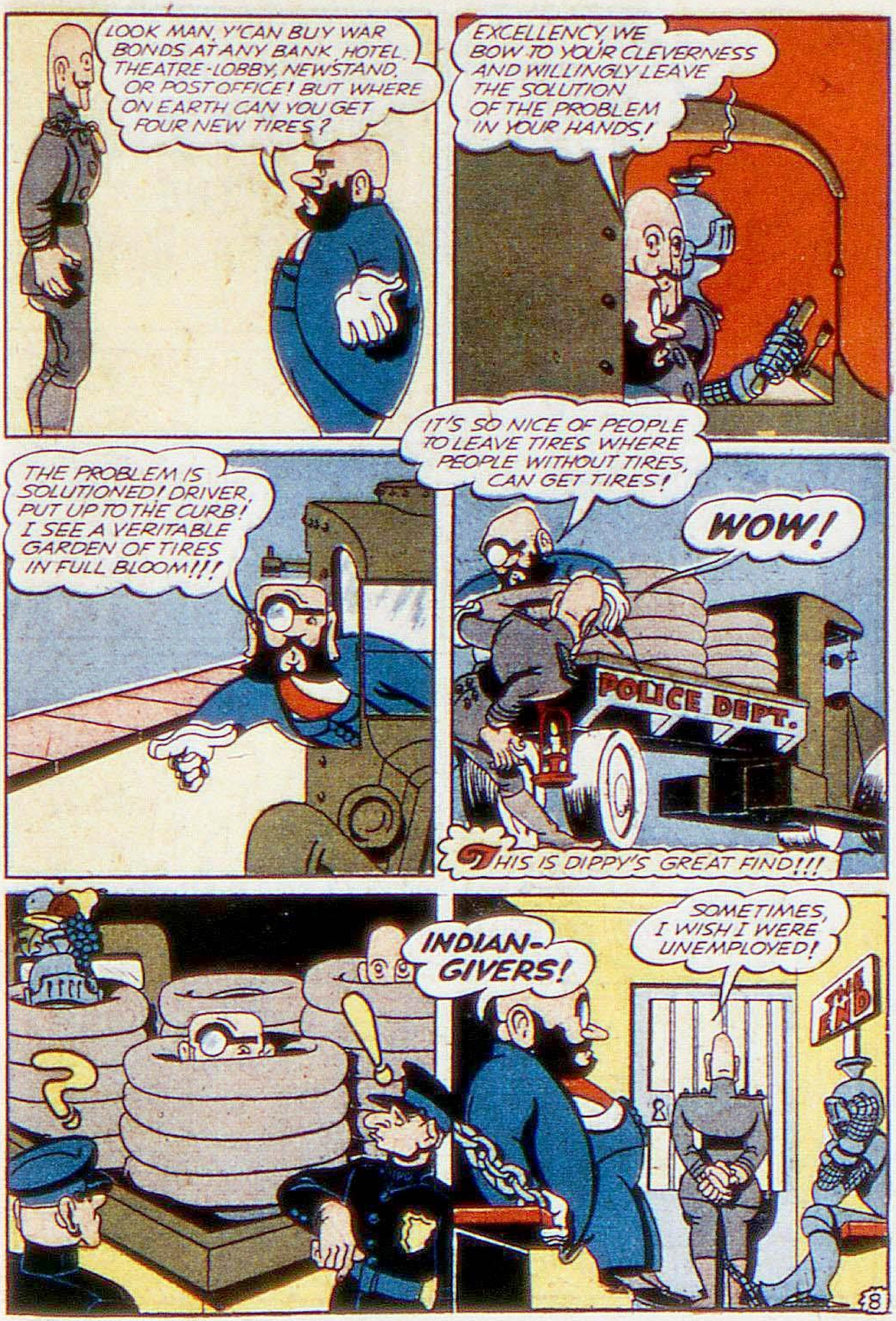
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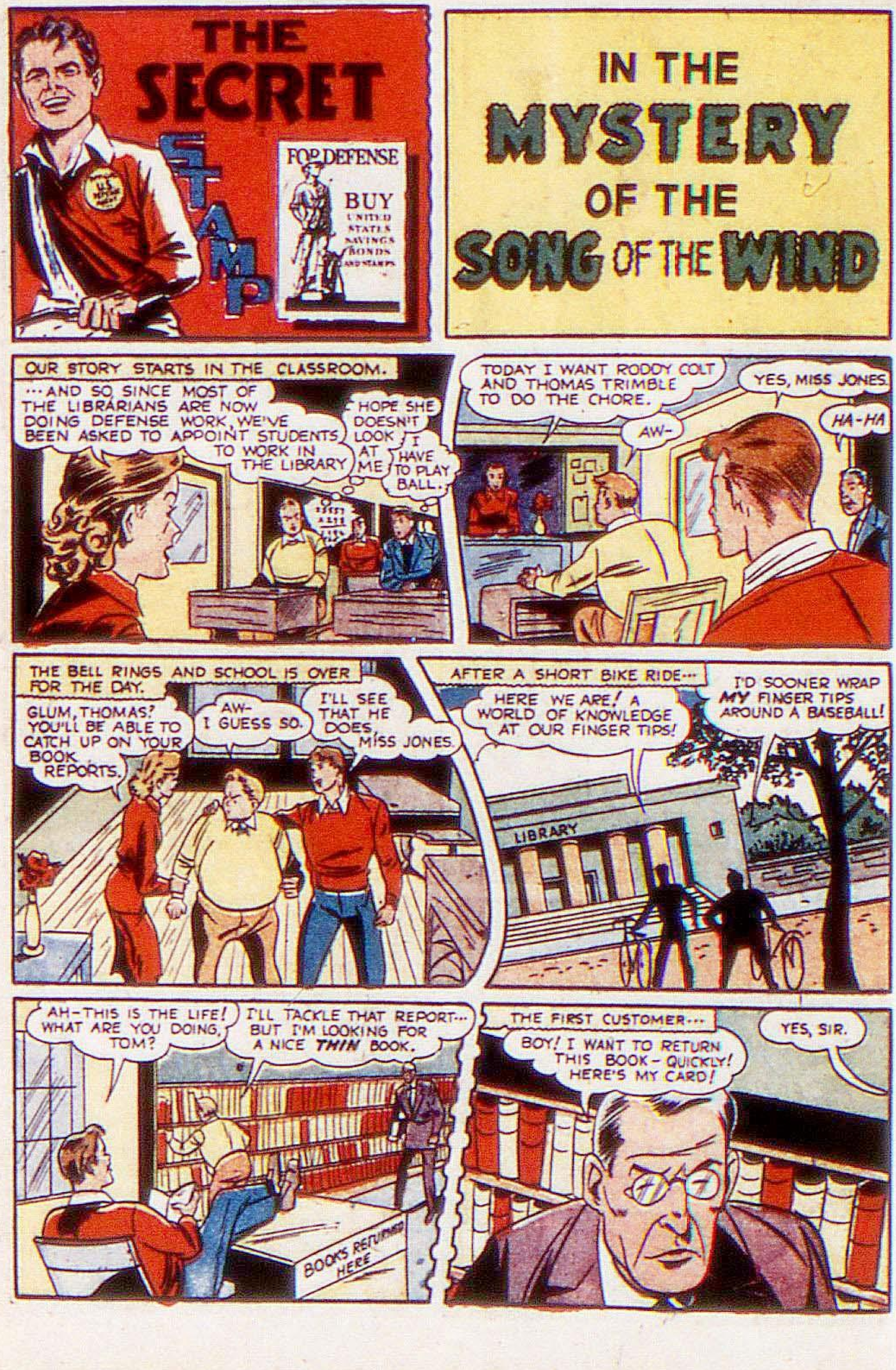
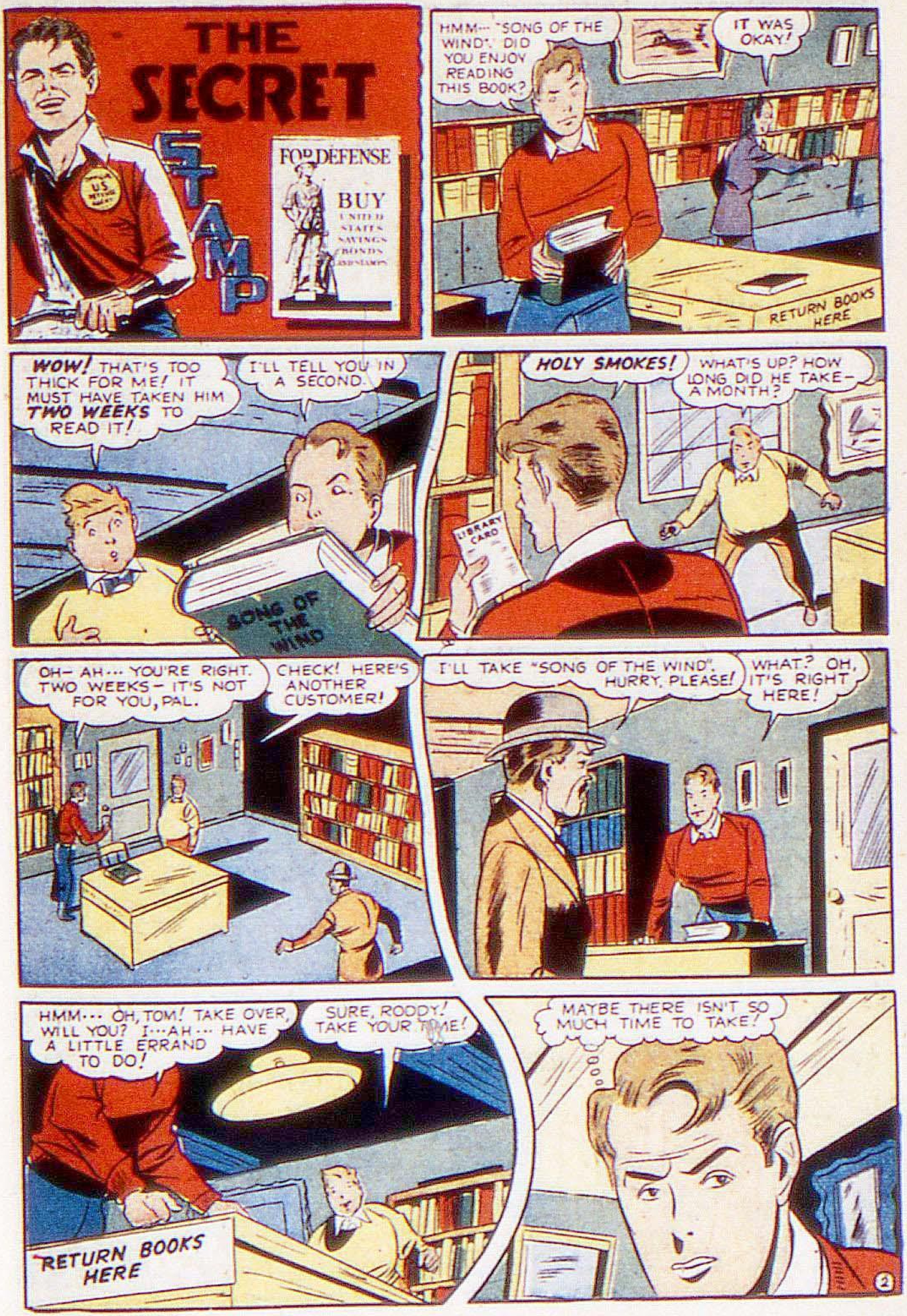
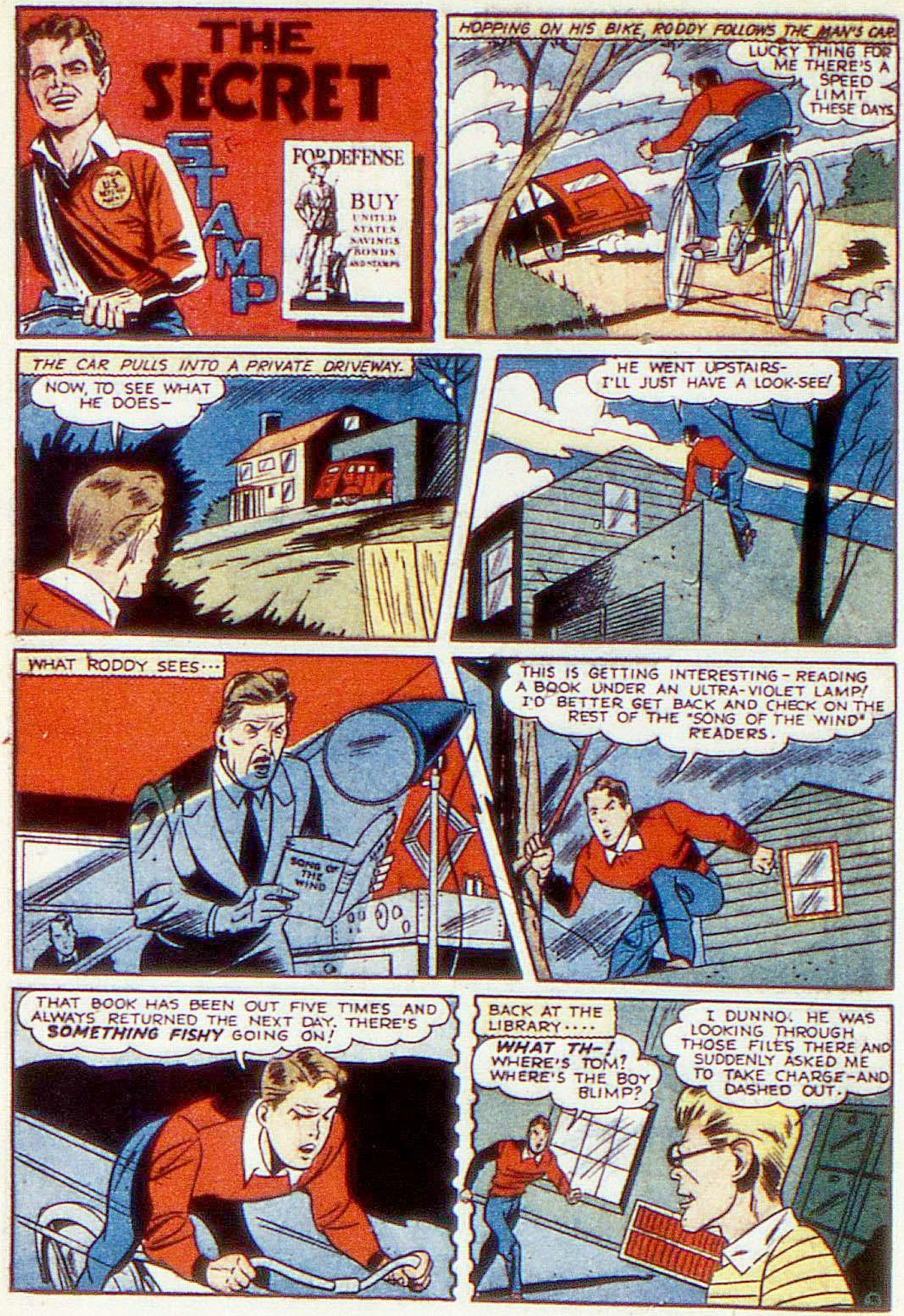
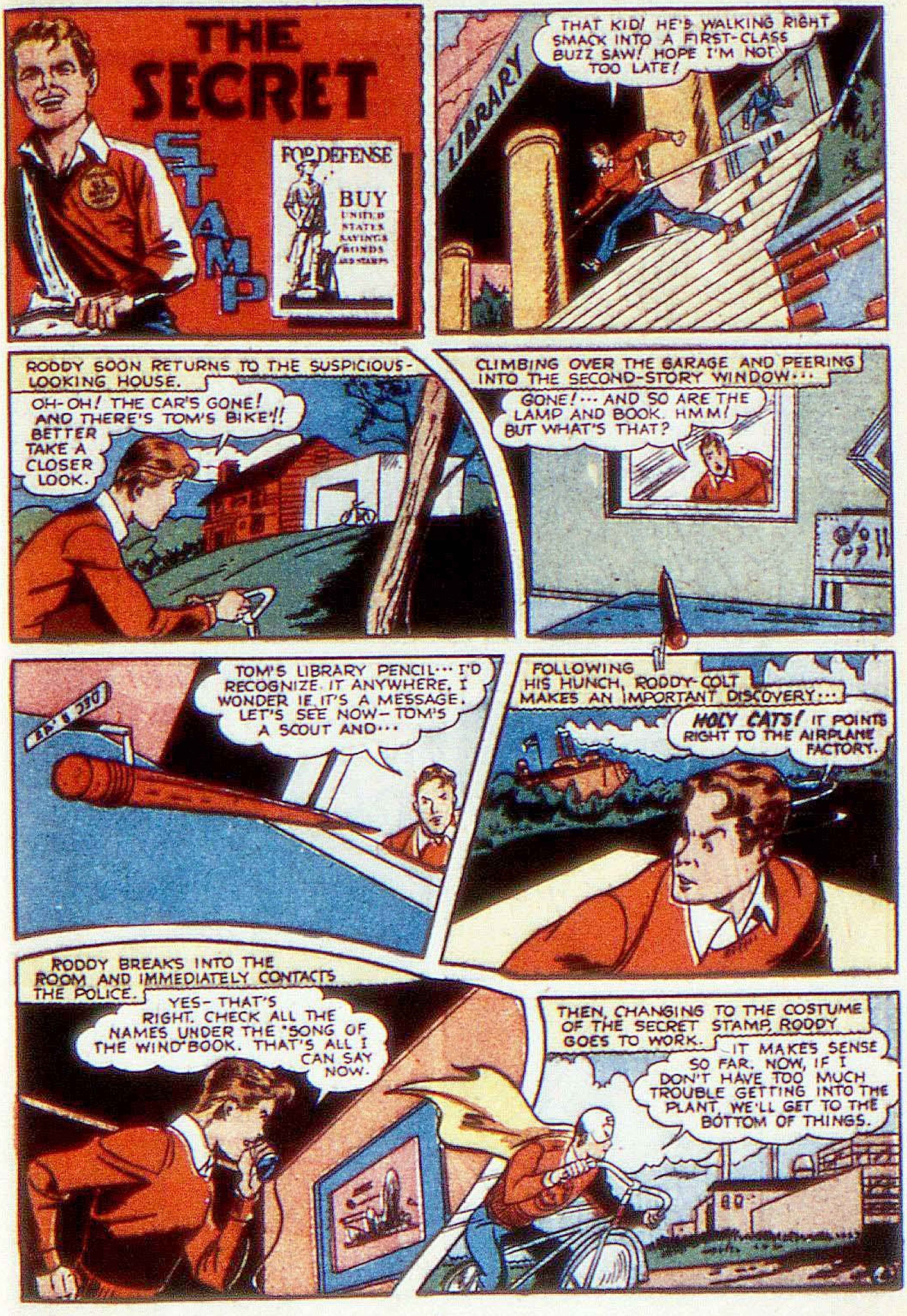
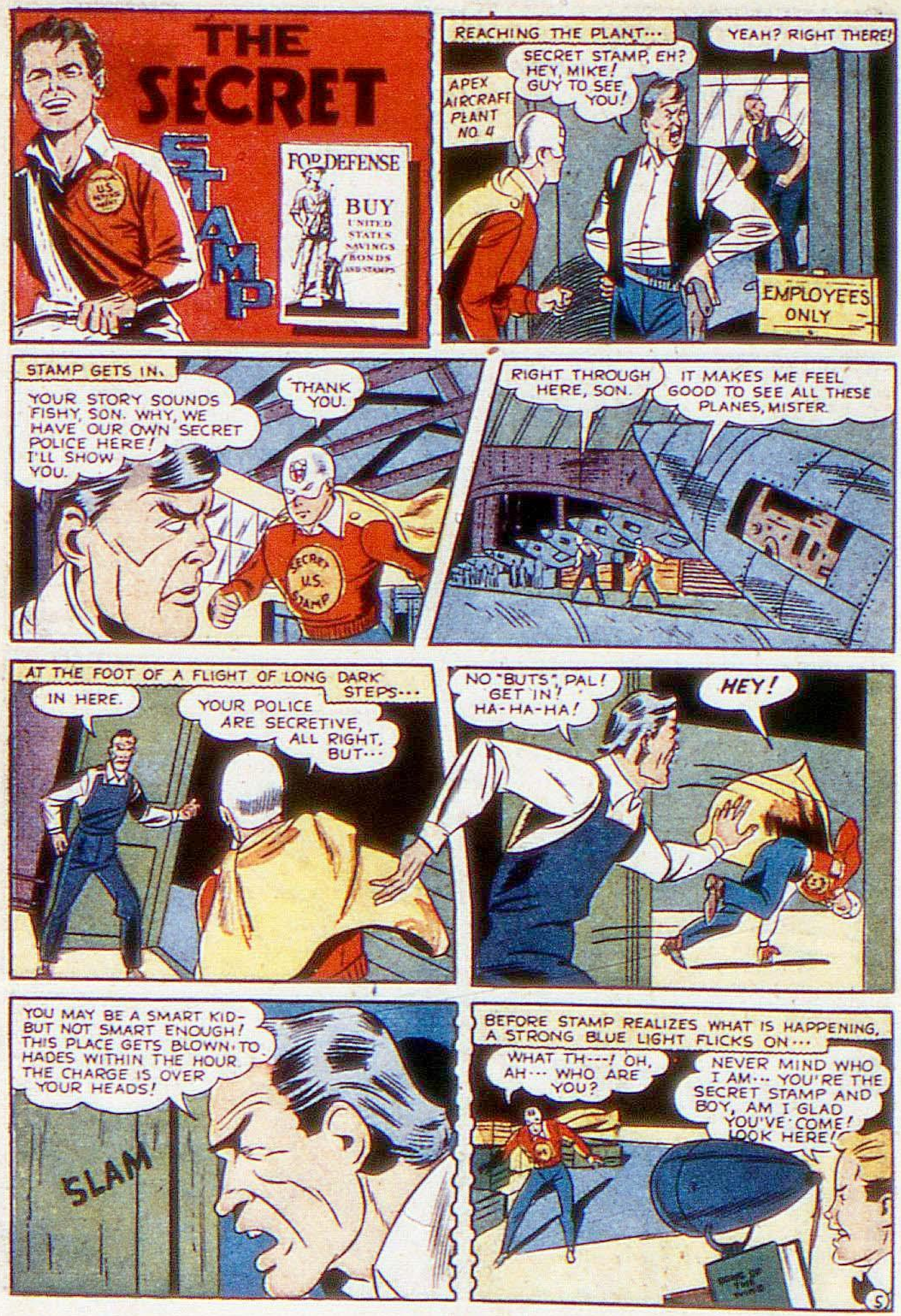
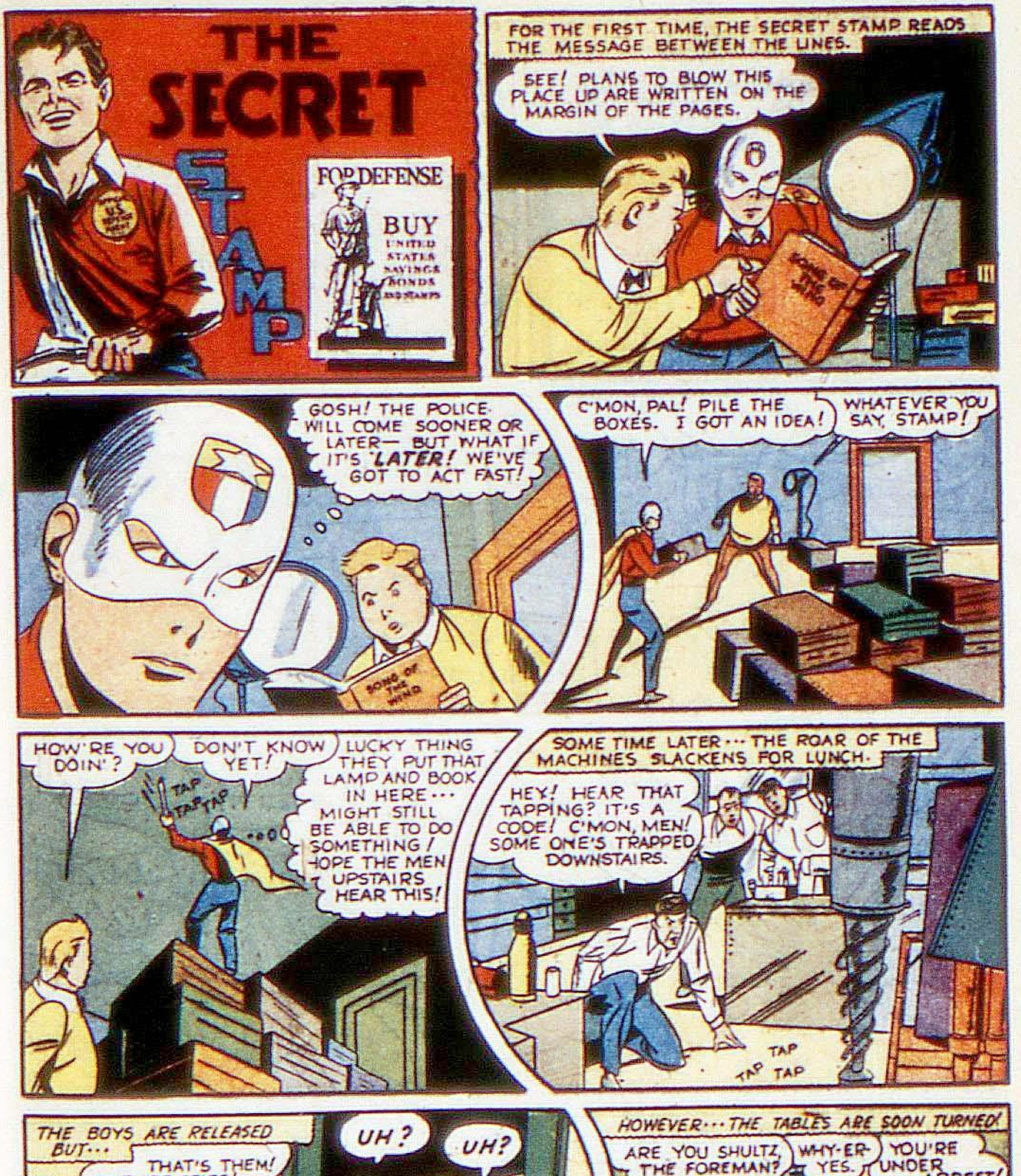
THE SECRET STAMP
FOR DEFENSE
BUY UNITED STATES SAVINGS BONDS AND STAMPS
IN THE MYSTERY OF THE SONG OF THE WIND
OUR STORY STARTS IN THE CLASSROOM.
...AND SO SINCE MOST OF THE LIBRARIANS ARE NOW DOING DEFENSE WORK, WE'VE BEEN ASKED TO APPOINT STUDENTS TO WORK IN THE LIBRARY
HOPE SHE DOESN'T LOOK AT ME
I HAVE TO PLAY BALL.
TODAY I WANT RODDY COLT AND THOMAS TRIMBLE TO DO THE CHORE.
YES, MISS JONES.
AW-
HA-HA
THE BELL RINGS AND SCHOOL IS OVER FOR THE DAY.
GLUM, THOMAS? YOU'LL BE ABLE TO CATCH UP ON YOUR BOOK REPORTS.
AW- I GUESS SO.
I'LL SEE THAT HE DOES, MISS JONES.
AFTER A SHORT BIKE RIDE...
HERE WE ARE! A WORLD OF KNOWLEDGE AT OUR FINGER TIPS!
I'D SOONER WRAP MY FINGER TIPS AROUND A BASEBALL!
LIBRARY
AH-THIS IS THE LIFE! WHAT ARE YOU DOING, TOM?
I'LL TACKLE THAT REPORT... BUT I'M LOOKING FOR A NICE THIN BOOK.
BOOKS RETURNED HERE
THE FIRST CUSTOMER...
BOY! I WANT TO RETURN THIS BOOK-QUICKLY! HERE'S MY CARD!
YES, SIR.

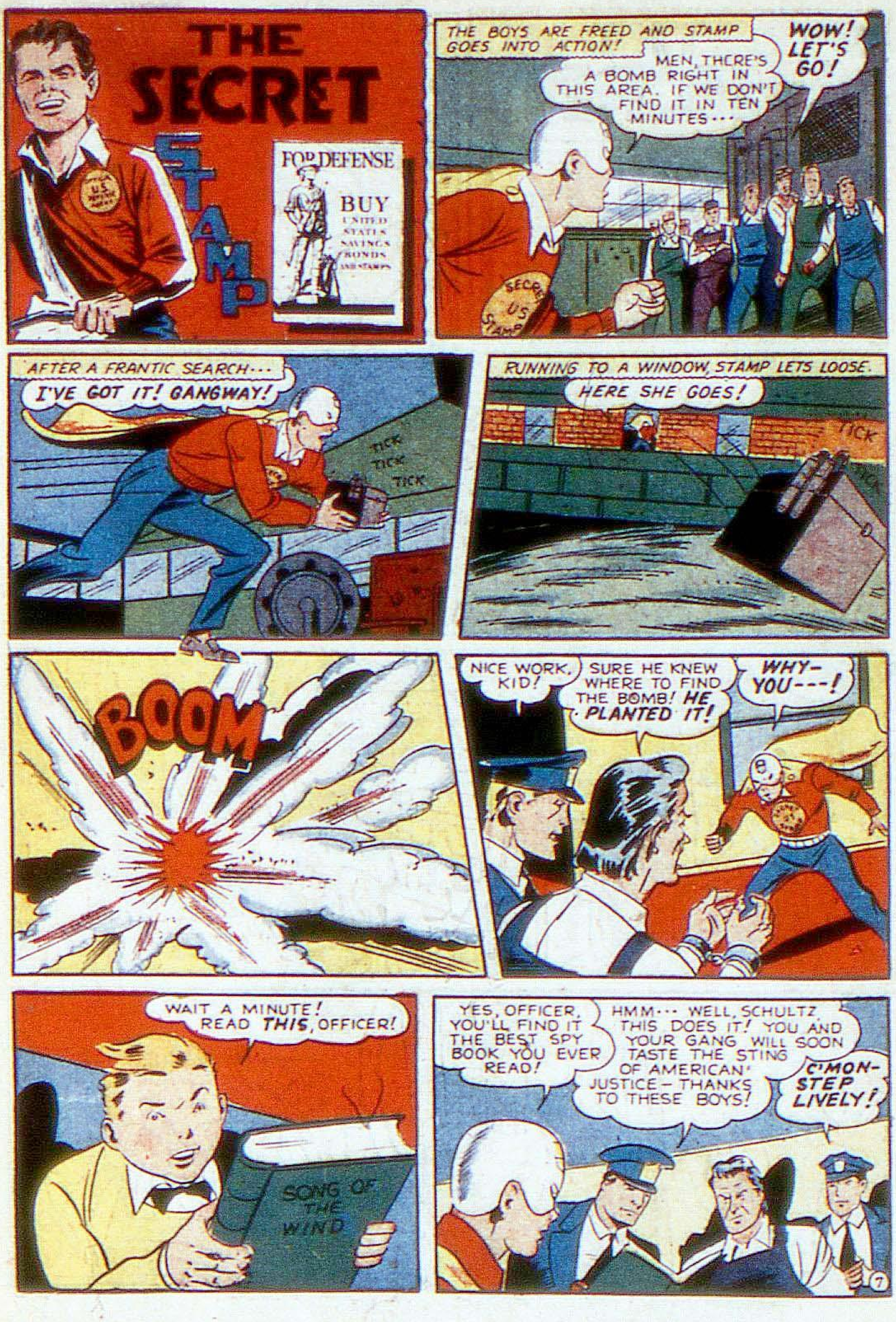

THE SECRET STAMP
U.S.
FOR DEFENSE
BUY UNITED STATES SAVINGS BONDS AND STAMPS
HMM... "SONG OF THE WIND", DID YOU ENJOY READING THIS BOOK?
IT WAS OKAY!
RETURN BOOKS HERE
WOW! THAT'S TOO THICK FOR ME! IT MUST HAVE TAKEN HIM TWO WEEKS TO READ IT!
I'LL TELL YOU IN A SECOND.
SONG OF THE WIND
HOLY SMOKES!
WHAT'S UP? HOW LONG DID HE TAKE— A MONTH?
LIBRARY CARD
OH— AH... YOU'RE RIGHT. TWO WEEKS— IT'S NOT FOR YOU, PAL.
CHECK! HERE'S ANOTHER CUSTOMER!
I'LL TAKE "SONG OF THE WIND". HURRY, PLEASE!
WHAT? OH, IT'S RIGHT HERE!
HMM... OH, TOM! TAKE OVER, WILL YOU? I...AH... HAVE A LITTLE ERRAND TO DO!
SURE, RODDY! TAKE YOUR TIME!
RETURN BOOKS HERE
MAYBE THERE ISN'T SO MUCH TIME TO TAKE!
2


THE SECRET STAMP
FOR DEFENSE
BUY UNITED STATES SAVINGS BONDS AND STAMPS
HOPPING ON HIS BIKE, RODDY FOLLOWS THE MAN'S CAR.
LUCKY THING FOR ME THERE'S A SPEED LIMIT THESE DAYS.
THE CAR PULLS INTO A PRIVATE DRIVEWAY.
NOW, TO SEE WHAT HE DOES–
HE WENT UPSTAIRS– I'LL JUST HAVE A LOOK-SEE!
WHAT RODDY SEES...
SONG OF THE WIND
THIS IS GETTING INTERESTING – READING A BOOK UNDER AN ULTRA-VIOLET LAMP! I'D BETTER GET BACK AND CHECK ON THE REST OF THE "SONG OF THE WIND" READERS.
THAT BOOK HAS BEEN OUT FIVE TIMES AND ALWAYS RETURNED THE NEXT DAY. THERE'S SOMETHING FISHY GOING ON!
BACK AT THE LIBRARY....
WHAT TH–! WHERE'S TOM? WHERE'S THE BOY BLIMP?
I DUNNO. HE WAS LOOKING THROUGH THOSE FILES THERE AND SUDDENLY ASKED ME TO TAKE CHARGE–AND DASHED OUT.


THE SECRET STAMP
FOR DEFENSE
BUY UNITED STATES SAVINGS BONDS AND STAMPS
THAT KID! HE'S WALKING RIGHT SMACK INTO A FIRST-CLASS BUZZ SAW! HOPE I'M NOT TOO LATE!
LIBRARY
RODDY SOON RETURNS TO THE SUSPICIOUS-LOOKING HOUSE.
OH-OH! THE CAR'S GONE! AND THERE'S TOM'S BIKE!! BETTER TAKE A CLOSER LOOK.
CLIMBING OVER THE GARAGE AND PEERING INTO THE SECOND-STORY WINDOW...
GONE!... AND SO ARE THE LAMP AND BOOK. HMM! BUT WHAT'S THAT?
TOM'S LIBRARY PENCIL... I'D RECOGNIZE IT ANYWHERE. I WONDER IF IT'S A MESSAGE. LET'S SEE NOW– TOM'S A SCOUT AND...
FOLLOWING HIS HUNCH, RODDY COLT MAKES AN IMPORTANT DISCOVERY...
HOLY CATS! IT POINTS RIGHT TO THE AIRPLANE FACTORY.
RODDY BREAKS INTO THE ROOM AND IMMEDIATELY CONTACTS THE POLICE.
YES– THAT'S RIGHT. CHECK ALL THE NAMES UNDER THE "SONG OF THE WIND" BOOK. THAT'S ALL I CAN SAY NOW.
THEN, CHANGING TO THE COSTUME OF THE SECRET STAMP, RODDY GOES TO WORK.
IT MAKES SENSE SO FAR. NOW, IF I DON'T HAVE TOO MUCH TROUBLE GETTING INTO THE PLANT, WE'LL GET TO THE BOTTOM OF THINGS.


THE SECRET STAMP
FOR DEFENSE
BUY UNITED STATES SAVINGS BONDS AND STAMPS
REACHING THE PLANT···
APEX AIRCRAFT PLANT NO. 4
SECRET STAMP, EH? HEY, MIKE! GUY TO SEE YOU!
YEAH? RIGHT THERE!
EMPLOYEES ONLY
STAMP GETS IN.
YOUR STORY SOUNDS FISHY, SON. WHY, WE HAVE OUR OWN SECRET POLICE HERE! I'LL SHOW YOU.
THANK YOU.
SECRET U.S. STAMP
RIGHT THROUGH HERE, SON.
IT MAKES ME FEEL GOOD TO SEE ALL THESE PLANES, MISTER.
AT THE FOOT OF A FLIGHT OF LONG DARK STEPS···
IN HERE.
YOUR POLICE ARE SECRETIVE, ALL RIGHT, BUT···
NO "BUTS", PAL! GET IN! HA-HA-HA!
HEY!
YOU MAY BE A SMART KID-BUT NOT SMART ENOUGH! THIS PLACE GETS BLOWN TO HADES WITHIN THE HOUR. THE CHARGE IS OVER YOUR HEADS!
SLAM
BEFORE STAMP REALIZES WHAT IS HAPPENING, A STRONG BLUE LIGHT FLICKS ON···
WHAT TH---! OH, AH··· WHO ARE YOU?
NEVER MIND WHO I AM··· YOU'RE THE SECRET STAMP AND BOY, AM I GLAD YOU'VE COME! LOOK HERE!
5


THE SECRET STAMP
FOR DEFENSE BUY UNITED STATES SAVINGS BONDS AND STAMPS
FOR THE FIRST TIME, THE SECRET STAMP READS THE MESSAGE BETWEEN THE LINES.
SEE! PLANS TO BLOW THIS PLACE UP ARE WRITTEN ON THE MARGIN OF THE PAGES.
SONG OF THE WIND
GOSH! THE POLICE WILL COME SOONER OR LATER— BUT WHAT IF IT'S 'LATER!' WE'VE GOT TO ACT FAST!
SONG OF THE WIND
C'MON, PAL! PILE THE BOXES. I GOT AN IDEA!
WHATEVER YOU SAY, STAMP!
HOW'RE YOU DOIN'?
DON'T KNOW YET!
LUCKY THING THEY PUT THAT LAMP AND BOOK IN HERE··· MIGHT STILL BE ABLE TO DO SOMETHING! HOPE THE MEN UPSTAIRS HEAR THIS!
TAP TAP TAP
SOME TIME LATER··· THE ROAR OF THE MACHINES SLACKENS FOR LUNCH.
HEY! HEAR THAT TAPPING? IT'S A CODE! C'MON, MEN! SOME ONE'S TRAPPED DOWNSTAIRS.
TAP TAP TAP TAP
THE BOYS ARE RELEASED BUT···
THAT'S THEM! THEY'RE SPIES!
UH?
UH?
HOWEVER··· THE TABLES ARE SOON TURNED!
ARE YOU SHULTZ, THE FOREMAN?
WHY-ER-YES.
YOU'RE UNDER ARREST!
6


THE SECRET STAMP
FOR DEFENSE
BUY UNITED STATES SAVINGS BONDS AND STAMPS
THE BOYS ARE FREED AND STAMP GOES INTO ACTION!
MEN, THERE'S A BOMB RIGHT IN THIS AREA. IF WE DON'T FIND IT IN TEN MINUTES···
WOW! LET'S GO!
SECRET US STAMP
AFTER A FRANTIC SEARCH···
I'VE GOT IT! GANGWAY!
TICK TICK TICK
RUNNING TO A WINDOW, STAMP LETS LOOSE.
HERE SHE GOES!
TICK
TICK
BOOM
NICE WORK, KID!
SURE HE KNEW WHERE TO FIND THE BOMB! HE PLANTED IT!
WHY-YOU---!
WAIT A MINUTE! READ THIS, OFFICER!
SONG OF THE WIND
YES, OFFICER, YOU'LL FIND IT THE BEST SPY BOOK YOU EVER READ!
HMM··· WELL, SCHULTZ, THIS DOES IT! YOU AND YOUR GANG WILL SOON TASTE THE STING OF AMERICAN JUSTICE–THANKS TO THESE BOYS!
C'MON–STEP LIVELY!

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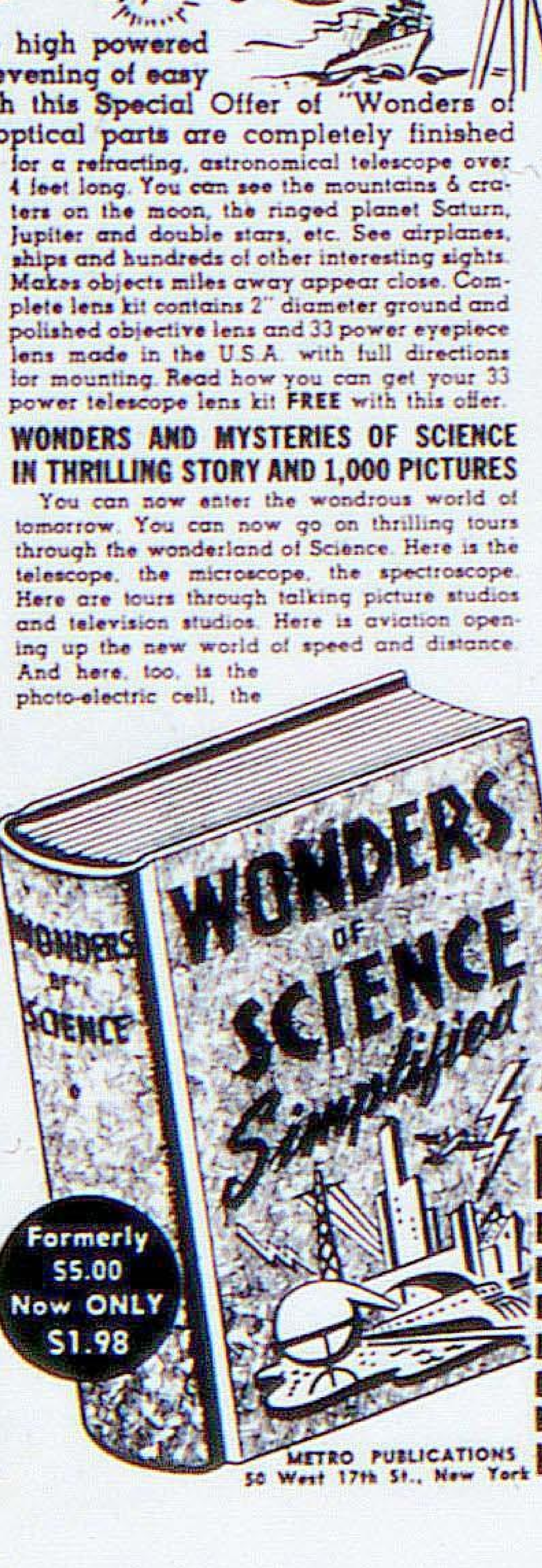

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